

2009 REGIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

The Status of Foster Care in Anguilla

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STATUS OF FOSTER CARE IN ANGUILLA

- ❖ About Anguilla
- ❖ Legislation for child protection
- ❖ Agency responsible for child protection
- ❖ Child protection practice
 - Foster care

INTRODUCTION TO ANGUILLA

- Anguilla is the most northerly of the Leeward Islands. It is considered to be a middle income country with a real growth rate – 10.9% in 2005.
- It's GDP per capita - \$8,800, Nominal GDP estimated at \$354.94 million in 2005.
- **Composition of GDP in 2005**
 - 31.9% Hotels and Restaurants
 - 18.5% Banking and Insurance
 - 14.3% Construction (strong growth linked to construction for tourism)
 - 12.7% Government Services



INTRODUCTION- CONTINUED

- 2001 Census the projected the population in 2006 to be approximately 13,884.
- 2001 census identified 3730 house holds, 12.4% being lone parent households and 25.3% categorized as other (being extended family, blended families).



CHILD PROTECTION AGENCY

- The Department of Social Development (DSD) is mandated to safeguard the well being of children and families in Anguilla.



CHILD PROTECTION AGENCY

- DSD networks with a number of other agencies in the private and public sector to effectively carry out its mandate. The main agencies are:
 - The Education Department
 - The Royal Anguilla Police Force
 - The Judicial System (Magistrate's Court)



MISSION STATEMENT

- *“To provide holistic services to the community aimed at improving and sustaining the whole well-being of individuals, through the use of a team of highly skilled and motivated staff, working in partnership with other agencies”.*



VALUES OF THE DSD

- Having A Caring Attitude
- *Protection of vulnerable groups*
 - *Strengthening family life*
- Working in Partnership
- *Collaboration in our service delivery*
- Seeking continuous Improvement
 - *Efficiency*
 - *Services appropriate to need*
- *Acknowledging uniqueness and diversity*
 - *Regular Reviews*



LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO CHILD PROTECTION

- **Juvenile Act**
- **Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act**
 - **Magistrate's Court Act**
 - **The Criminal Code**



LEGISLATION CONTINUED

- **Education Act**
- **Probation of Offenders Act**
 - **Liquor License Act**
 - **Day Care Centre Act**



CARE AND PROTECTION

- One of the cornerstones of the Department of Social Development is that the safety and welfare of our children is paramount.
- Child protection cases are given priority by the Department of Social Development (DSD). Social workers within the department investigate reports and work with parents/families to find solutions to situations that may interfere with their child's safety.



CARE AND PROTECTION

- The Social Workers seek to provide protective services to the children within their own homes if the parents are amenable, otherwise the child at risk may have to be offered protective care outside of the home, e.g. foster care.



HOW DOES THE REPORT REACH DSD?

- Self
- School
- Police
- Family or relative
- Medical practitioner and other professionals
- Friends
- Concerned persons.



DSD'S RESPONSE

- verification of report – see and speak with victim (if possible)
- contact parents/guardian/interested person(s)
- medical attention (if necessary), other relevant agencies, police attention if necessary, mediation may be sufficient
- Assessment of incident to determine next step
- Support for victim, family, perpetrator (if practicable) counselling, mediation, poverty alleviation assistance, Liase with school, Education Department. Liase with service clubs that provide mentoring for young persons



PLACEMENT CIRCUMSTANCES BY AGE AND GENDER

Foster Care Circumstances	Age Range of clients									
	0 > 5 years		5 > 10 years		10 > 14 years		14 > 16 years		16 – 18 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Child placed with relative	2	1	2	4	4	1	1	2	-	-
Child placed with couple	5	2	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	2
Child placed with single parent	-	3	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Child was adopted by carer	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child had multiple placements	2	1	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	2
Child returned to mother	2	1	-	-	4	1	1	2	-	-



- -To date 39 children have been placed with 38 foster carers.
- -Relative include father.
- -Single parent include godmother to the child
- -Multiple placements the foster carer could accommodate the child for a short period
- -Children returned mother in violation of the Court Order
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