

**Department of Human Services
Child Welfare Staffing**

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report on child welfare staffing.

During the 2013-15 biennium the Department of Human Services received 113 new positions to help improve Child Welfare staffing; positions were authorized beginning January 1, 2014. The agency was directed to report on those positions.

The agency report indicates staff were hired and trained but that it is still too early to see the full impact of increased staffing levels. This is primarily due to the amount of training required before a caseworker is able to carry a full caseload. However, DHS does report improvements in several program activity metrics during 2014.

Implementation of differential response and expansion of strengthening, preserving, and reunifying families services are also contributing to better program outcomes. The agency will continue to share staffing information and progress toward meeting desired program outcomes with interim and session legislative budget committees.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.