



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Forrester disappointed by DCYF staffing shortages; questions management

Concord, NH – Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester issued the following statement on the Division of Child, Youth and Families [DCYF] interim report.

“I am extremely disappointed to learn that DCYF is having staffing issues, increased caseloads and a significant backlog of unresolved cases. Two budgets have been passed since DCYF recognized a dramatic uptick in caseloads, however, as Senate Finance Chair I was never informed of any caseload backlogs or other internal issues at the agency. Neither the Governor nor the Department of Health and Human Services alerted us about the backlog of assessments or requested additional caseworkers during the budget process when we could have begun to address the underlying issues. As a Legislature, we cannot address problems that no one informs us of,” said Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith).

“While it appears DCYF may need additional staff to address the increased caseloads, the report details more than just a staffing shortage, raising more troubling questions surrounding management. While we are working to better understand the true vacancy rate, or number of unfilled positions, at DCYF it initially appears to be consistent with the department average around 11%. In addition, it reveals that on an average day, nearly 25% of DCYF caseworkers were not at their jobs due to days off or training. This is an issue that should be addressed by management right away,” said Forrester.

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