

CHILD WELFARE IN PHILADELPHIA

LATEST STORY

Report on DHS hits return rate

Children discharged from foster care are "highly likely" to reenter. But there is success for those placed with relatives.

Posted 09/11/2008

A new, wide-ranging report that delivers both discouraging and hopeful news on child welfare in the city found that children discharged from Philadelphia's foster-care system reenter it at "extremely high rates."

DANIEAL KELLY, A CHILD LEFT TO DIE

THE STORIES



Danieal Kelly, a 14-year-old with cerebral palsy, wasted away in a Mantua apartment in 2006. Two years later, a grand jury found that

nine people, including her parents and social workers, were responsible for her death.

TIMELINE



Follow the events that lead to the indictments of nine people in Danieal Kelly's death.

GRAND JURY REPORT



Read the grand jury report, which includes graphic images.

First Independent Review



The Department of Human Services has made significant headway in rethinking how it protects children in Philadelphia but has far to go before its reforms find their way to the streets, a panel of experts reported Thursday in the first outside review of the agency since a shake-up in 2006.

Recommended changes

Report shows how DHS failed

The remedy: A new dedication to children and oversight. Children have died needlessly because of "significant system failures" that plague the city Department of Human Services, a panel of experts said in a wrenching report made public today.



Suggested Reforms

To fix the systemic problems, the panel recommended a series of reforms, ranging from a rethinking of its core mission to the development of a new DHS document. Among other steps, it said the agency must:

INQUIRER INVESTIGATION

Inquirer Investigation: 'Bury Your Mistakes'

Three years after a string of blunders by DHS was widely blamed for failing to prevent the torture-murder of toddler Porchia Bennett, an Inquirer investigation has found that young children are still regularly abused to death after coming to the attention of DHS.



CHILD WELFARE FROM THE INSIDE

On the DHS front lines

Caseworkers cope with poverty, abuse - and the fallout from children's deaths. Paula Soloman parallel-parked her hulking city-issued van into a tight space in front of the weathered white house. Finally, she thought, she was going to meet the elusive Nakesha Bridges.

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