

RESOLUTION - CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

WHEREAS, Recent publicized cases of child abuse and neglect indicate that the Division of Social Services is not providing adequate protective services to children; and

WHEREAS, The problem in the state's delivery of protective services include:

- high case loads that average 40 cases per worker;
- low pay for workers, with starting salaries about 12,000;
- an inadequate number of workers, so that some children in foster care have no assigned worker;
- lack of Hispanic and black workers;
- high worker turnover, which leads to inconsistent case management and places a heavy training burden on supervisors;
- lack of an adequate tracking system, so that DSS does not really know how many children are in care, who they are, or where they are;
- an insufficient number of good foster homes, especially for adolescents; and
- a lack of coordination between various agencies; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Delaware PTA urge the Governor, the Legislature and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make a real commitment to caring for Delaware's abused, neglected, and dependent children by upgrading salaries to attract and retain better qualified people, funding enough positions to lower case loads, actively recruiting black and Hispanic workers, providing a computerized tracking system, and funding adequate support services so that case workers have a place to refer families for specialized help.

Approved by:
Delaware PTA Convention
March 1982