

**State of Maine
Child Welfare/Substance Abuse Committee**

“Shared Outcome” Statement

The following statement regarding a “shared outcome” was discussed by the Maine State Child Welfare/Substance Abuse Committee at its meeting on February 12, 2007. The purpose of this statement is three-fold:

1. It is a component of work plan that was agreed upon by this committee at the beginning of FY 06-07; and
2. Developing “shared outcomes and shared responsibilities” is one of the 10 Elements of Systems Linkage used by the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. Developing a strategic plan utilizing the 10 Elements framework is a component of a request for technical assistance by the State of Maine to NCSACW.
3. A “shared outcome” statement is one way to initiate a planning process across system lines.

Operating assumptions for the shared outcome statement:

- The “shared outcome” should be agreed upon and align themselves with substance abuse treatment outcomes and the federal outcomes for child safety, permanency, and well being;
- The shared outcome statement should be consistent with the Values Statement articulated by the Committee;
- The Committee recognizes that Maine needs to improve in the length of time at-risk children are receiving permanency;
- The Committee has strived to ensure that all families who are touched by the child welfare system are screened for potential substance abuse problems;
- The Committee acknowledges that timely access, engagement, treatment, and retention of families with substance abuse problems may have the ability to reduce the length of time a child may be placed out of the home, and/or decrease the length of time required for these children to achieve permanency.