



Division of Family Services

Update on Children's Services Transformation

June 16, 2010

Key Areas of Progress

Training

- Steering Committee has been established and includes key representatives from various stakeholder groups to lead reengineering efforts for child welfare training
- Several subcommittees work to address major aspects of training infrastructure (Policy, Knowledge Center, Communications)
- Working towards the establishment of core competencies for child welfare supervisors and managers
 - review process to begin in July with participation from LDSS

Managing by Data

- Completed Applied SafeMeasures training in each region
- Continuing to update SafeMeasures reports
- Generating a Critical Outcomes Report that will illustrate LDSS performance on Transformation, CFSR, and CPS Outcome Measures

Continuous Quality Improvement

- Planning is underway for the Quality Service Reviews which is an evaluation method used to appraise the current status of children and their families who are receiving child welfare services and assess the performance of key system functions performed by the LDSS
- QSR is scheduled to begin in February 2011 and site selection and sampling methodologies should be decided within the next month

Casey Reengagement

- Major focus on Family Engagement Regional Teams which includes every region's 3 child welfare consultants, the CRAFT Coordinator, the ProjectLIFE coordinator, and the CSA Technical Assistant



Practice Model

Family Engagement

Family Meetings

Family Search

Family Support

Kinship Care

Division Infrastructure

Leadership

- Policy development
- Best practices
- Collaboration

Support

- Training
- Tools & resources
- Local guidance
- Local flexibility

Accountability

- Data management
- Continuous Quality Improvement

Definitions

- **Family Engagement:** The actions of Professionals and Agencies to actively include families, youth, and resource parents in a wide range of decision-making activities including planning and service delivery for the purpose of giving them a voice and choice in what happens to their families and children.
- **Family Partnership Meeting:** A facilitated decision-making meeting that involves parents, relatives, youth, resource parents, and the social worker around critical decision points such as high risk, potential removal or change of placement, and reunification and permanency.
- **Diligent Family Search:** Family search and engagement involves reconstructing a child's relationships over time and locating family members, kin and others who can play an essential role in planning - an information gathering and relationship-building process that will help a youth leave foster care with enduring family connections.
- **Family Support:** The process of providing families, youth, and resource parents with the services, resources, and timely and positive contact they need to be successful. The goal of family support is to keep children in safe and stable placements--at home, when possible, or with relative or resource caregivers when out-of-home placement is necessary.
- **Kinship Care:** Safe and secure diversion and placement of children and older youth with relatives AND the provision of appropriate supports for kin families that lead to improved permanency outcomes.

Placement with Relatives with Subsequent Custody Assistance

- Supported by the Fostering Connections Act of 2008
- An Advisory Committee to DFS recommended implementation of this Permanency Option by January 2011
- Requirements:
 - Child in care at least 6 months with this family
 - Other permanency options assessed as inappropriate
 - Relative foster parent agrees to commit & take custody
 - Child agrees if mature enough to consult

- Kinship Care Study by Casey

Summer focus groups

- Picking 6-8 localities
- Talking with LDSS staff and families
- What practices > kinship care?
- What are the barriers to kinship care?
- What happens when kids are diverted from Foster care to kin?

- September trip to Alleghany Co., PA

