



Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee

Jill Seyfred, Executive Director

July 22, 2020

Agency Mission Statement

- Our **mission**: To prevent the abuse and neglect of Kentucky's children through advocacy, awareness, education and training.
- The **vision** of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky: Building a better Kentucky by shaping our children and their families to ensure Kentucky's future leaders grow up in safe, healthy environments.



Programs & Services

Trainings	More than 3,000 people trained annually – more than 15 topic areas
Parent Education Groups	Historically 15,000+ incidences of service annually
Kids Are Worth It! Conference	600+ attendees
Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families	Founding Member
Information & Data Center	More than 150,000 materials distributed annually Specialized campaigns

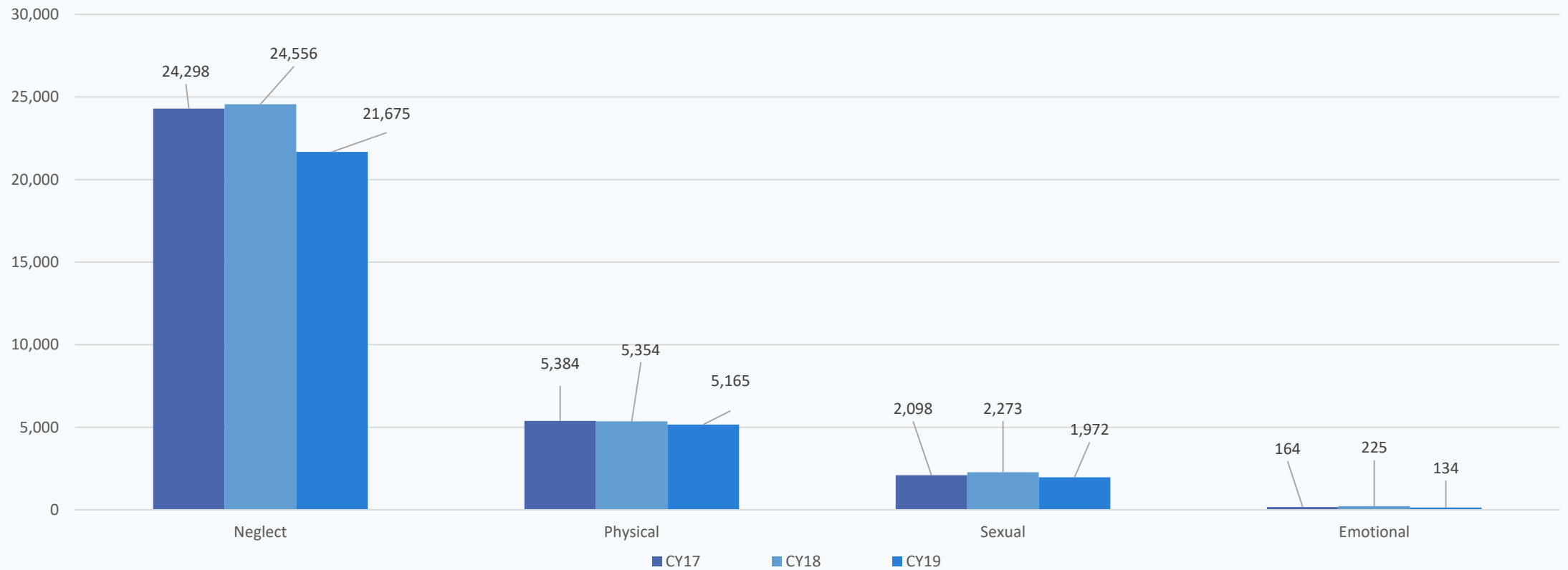
Key Partners



- We have more than 250 partners throughout the state – here's a sampling:
 - Health Departments
 - FRYSCs
 - Our parent education providers (14)
 - Children's Alliance
 - Home of the Innocents
 - Face It!
 - DCBS
 - CACs, CASA
 - AOC
 - Ft. Knox Army Community Services
 - Organized Labor
 - UK, UL, UPike
 - UCWEECAN (Union Co.)

State Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics Source DCBS

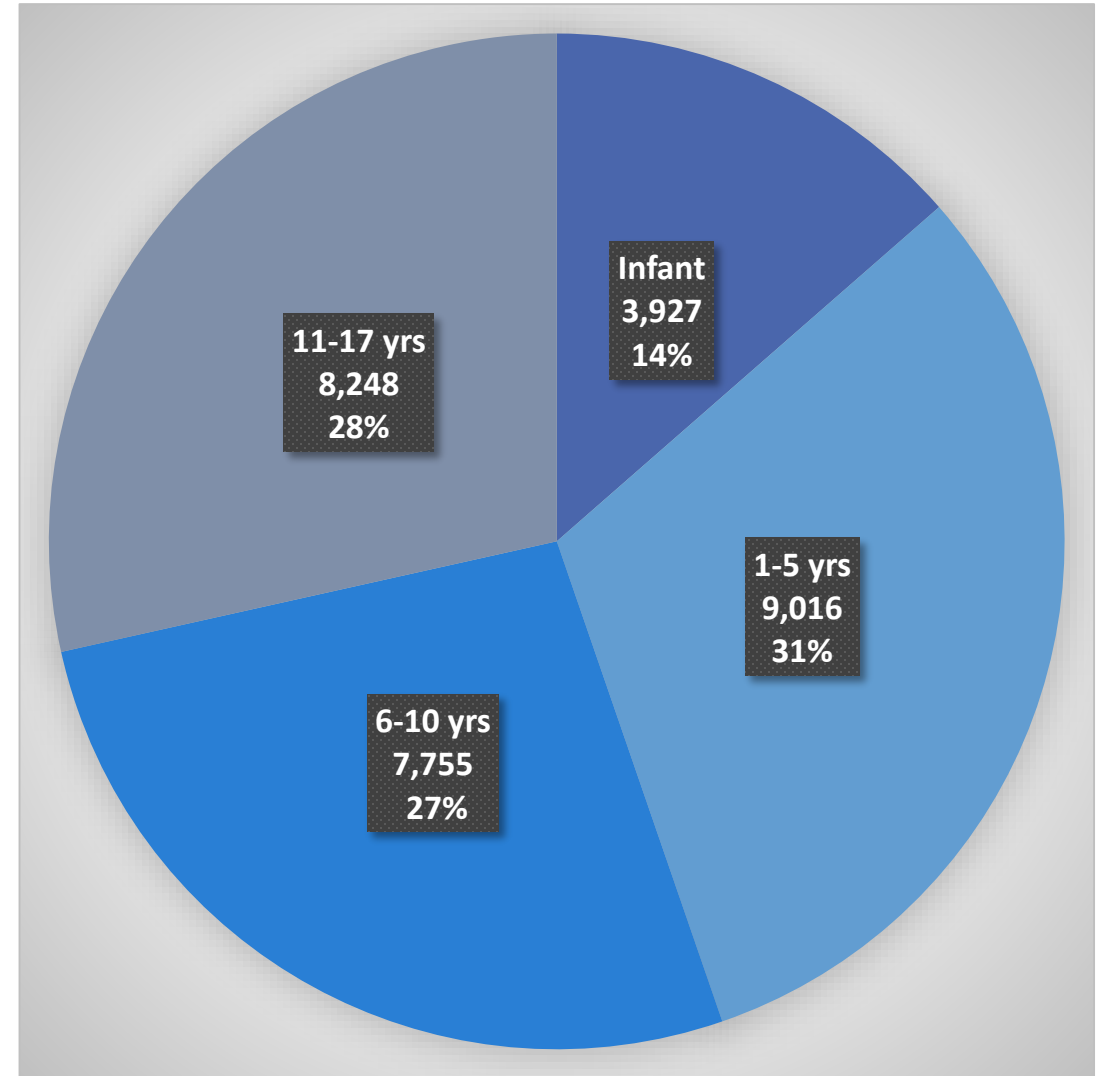
of Children Substantiated or in Need of Services By Year/Type of Abuse



State Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

Source DCBS



of Children Substantiated or Services Needed
Calendar Year 2019





Risk Factors for our Children

for Calendar Year 2019
Source DCBS

- Substance abuse was documented as a risk factor in 63% of the reports with a finding of substantiated or services needed.
 - Family violence was documented as a risk factor in 44% of the reports with a finding of substantiated or services needed.
 - Mental health concerns were documented as a risk factor in 46% of the reports with a finding of substantiated or services needed.
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KY Child Fatality and Near Fatality Data

- On average (2013-2018), 47.5 children die under circumstances of maltreatment each year in Kentucky. While an average of 87.75 children are involved in near fatal incidents.
- The 2019 Annual Report of the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Panel reviewed cases from FY 2018. Of the cases reviewed, 75% were children ages 0-4. The following family characteristics were found in these cases and are listed in order of prevalence.
 - DCBS family history (78% of the cases reviewed had a prior history with CPS)
 - Financial Issues
 - Criminal history (in the home and caregiver)
 - Mental Health Issues (Caregiver)
 - Substance abuse (in the home)
 - Supervisional neglect

Child Fatality & Near Fatality Data

- **Additional findings:**
- 58% of cases reviewed by the panel indicating neglect due to unsafe access to deadly means, 58% were associated with overdose/ingestions. The panel compared their data to that of the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC). KIPRC cited 897 children, ages 0-12, being treated in emergency rooms during 2018 due to drug overdose. Approximately 60% of these children were under 6 years of age.
- In 28% of the cases reviewed, the Panel identified a “bystander issue” for **failing to make a report of child maltreatment to the appropriate authorities**. Often times, family members and community members recognize the early signs of abuse and neglect but fail to report it until after a fatal\near fatal incident occurs.
- 73% of Abusive Head Trauma cases involved substance abuse by a caregiver.

Source: 2019 Annual Report of the Child Fatality & Near Fatality Review Panel
<http://justice.ky.gov/Pages/Reports.aspx>



Summary Findings of PCAK Survey on Child Sexual Abuse

N= 503

Based on the science of communication surrounding child sexual abuse, common myths and input from PCAK partners, survey questions were formulated to help identify what messaging is needed to impact the prevention of child sexual abuse in Kentucky.

- **4.39% of respondents believe child sexual abuse rarely occurs in their community.**

One in ten children will be victims of child sexual abuse before their 18th birthday. Prevalence of child sexual abuse is believed to be higher than the rate of substantiations- research indicates only 60% of victims ever tell anyone that abuse is occurring.

- **98.41% think most people who sexually abuse children have a relationship with the child or the child's family.**

The old saying "stranger danger" is a myth that is being debunked. Five to 10% of child sex abuse perpetrators are strangers.

- **96% believe everyone is responsible for keeping children safe from child sexual abuse.**

Of those who have never worked with children in one on one situations, 37% indicated they do not know the signs to look for to determine if a child has been sexually abused.



Primary Prevention – A Few Examples

- Family Resource & Youth Service Centers
 - Increasing economic supports for families (e.g. Earned Income Tax Credit)
 - Banning corporal punishment in public institutions
 - Evidence-based child sexual abuse prevention programs
 - Expanding voluntary home visiting (i.e. HANDS)
 - Quality funded child care and early education
 - Support for parenting teens
 - Promoting positive fatherhood engagement
 - Parent training and education
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Child Maltreatment is Costly

- A recent report estimates children who had substantiated cases for child abuse and neglect in Kentucky in the year 2018 will incur costs of over \$19 trillion over their lifetime.
 - Child maltreatment and neglect alone cost Kentucky an estimated \$560M in total federal, state, and local Child Protection Services expenditures for SFY2016.
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Prevention Works!



Prevention Works! After
Participating in the Parent Education
Program/ Weekly Support Group...

- 99% of participants report dealing with stress in a healthy way.
- 99% of participants report they have appropriate expectations for the age of their child.
- 99% of participants report they react calmly when their child does the thing that upsets them most.
- 99% of participants report they handle conflict in a healthy way.

FY 20 = 11,950 incidents of service

"Okay, when I first found out I was being required to take a parenting class, I was not very happy about it to say the least. I didn't believe it was necessary, or would help anything.

After my very first class my feelings and opinions completely changed. The instructor was fantastic. I was made to feel completely comfortable, like I had not only a support group, but also friends. I never once felt judged or discriminated against.

I learned how to parent in a way that is creative, useful, encouraging, and important for both me and my kids. I've learned so much about dealing with discipline and praise.


The class also offered the support that I didn't even realize I needed. I felt I could be open and honest during the good days and the "bad" days.

I left every class knowing that I was going to succeed and that I was capable of being the "best" me for myself and my little ones!
I can never say thank you enough!"



Prevent Child Abuse
Kentucky

- PARENT EDUCATION CLASS
PARTICIPANT



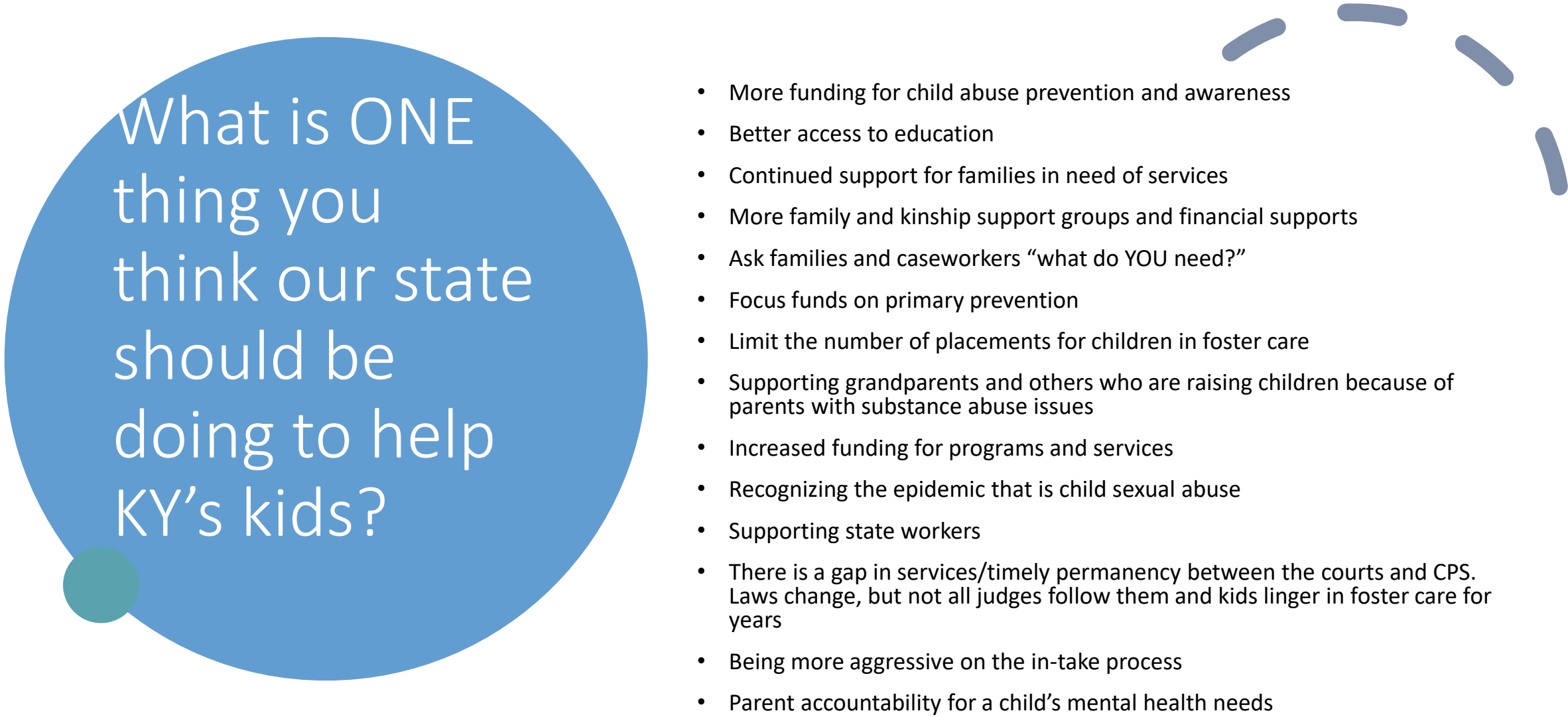
What we are hearing from our partners and providers:

- Grandparents raising grandchildren with limited resources and knowledge of current events, technology and awareness of child development and discipline.
- Parents having unrealistic expectations of child development and behavior.
- Parental lack of interest in educational outcomes of children.
- Schools and organizations trying to mandate a chain of command in the reporting of child abuse. The employee receiving the firsthand account of abuse or suspicion of abuse must report to a supervisor. The supervisor then determines if a report should be made and makes the report.
- Lack of quality, affordable childcare or afterschool programming.
- Lack of mentoring programs for youth of all ages.
- Cases involving victims of child physical abuse who are over the age of 12 have cases treated as domestic abuse instead of child abuse.
- Professionals and the public not being able to identify homeless families and youth. Therefore, families and youth are not receiving needed services.
- Substance abuse among caregivers.

What is the most pressing need facing the children and families with whom you work?

- Substance abuse
- Resources in rural communities
- Mental health resources
- Lack of resources
- Unhealthy abusive patterns
- Lack of long-term foster and adoptive homes
- Dangers of internet/social media





What is ONE
thing you
think our state
should be
doing to help
KY's kids?

- More funding for child abuse prevention and awareness
- Better access to education
- Continued support for families in need of services
- More family and kinship support groups and financial supports
- Ask families and caseworkers “what do YOU need?”
- Focus funds on primary prevention
- Limit the number of placements for children in foster care
- Supporting grandparents and others who are raising children because of parents with substance abuse issues
- Increased funding for programs and services
- Recognizing the epidemic that is child sexual abuse
- Supporting state workers
- There is a gap in services/timely permanency between the courts and CPS. Laws change, but not all judges follow them and kids linger in foster care for years
- Being more aggressive on the in-take process
- Parent accountability for a child's mental health needs

Website and contact information



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