

CHILD WELFARE TRANSFORMATION



Health, Welfare, and Family Services IJC
Eric T. Clark, DCBS Commissioner

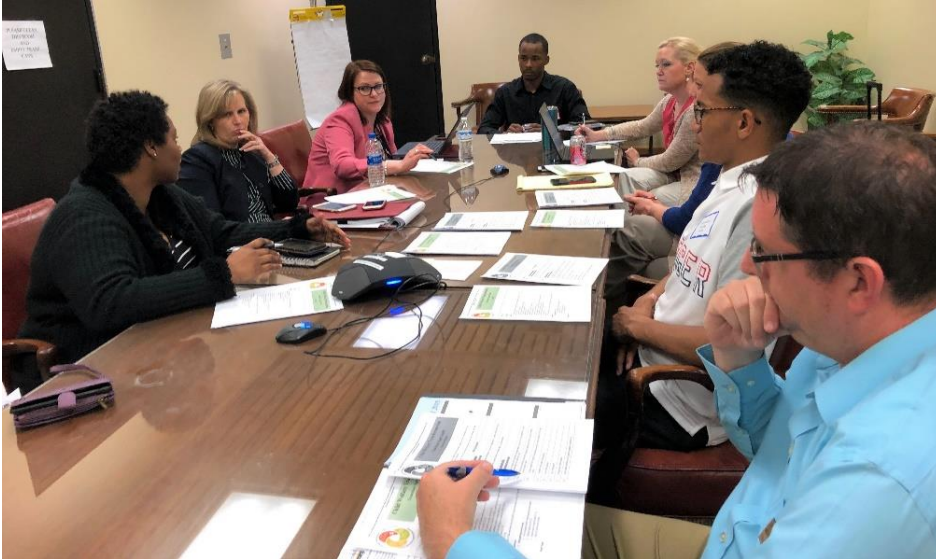
September 30, 2019

Time for Change

- Increasing number of kids in care
- Focus on child welfare ***system***
- House Bills 1 and 200 (Regular Session 2018)
- Family First Prevention Services Act



The Transformation



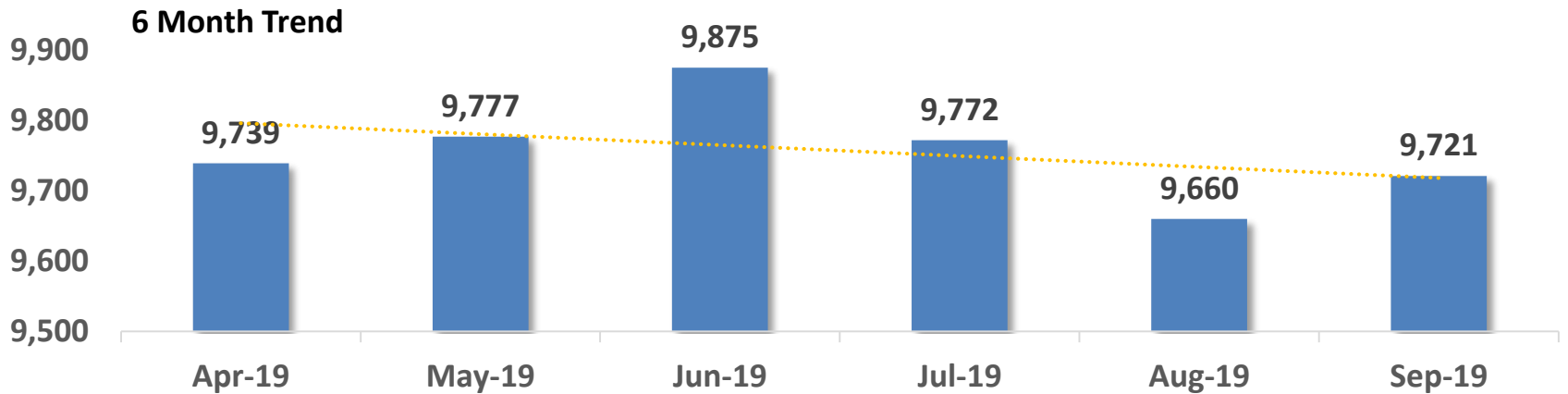
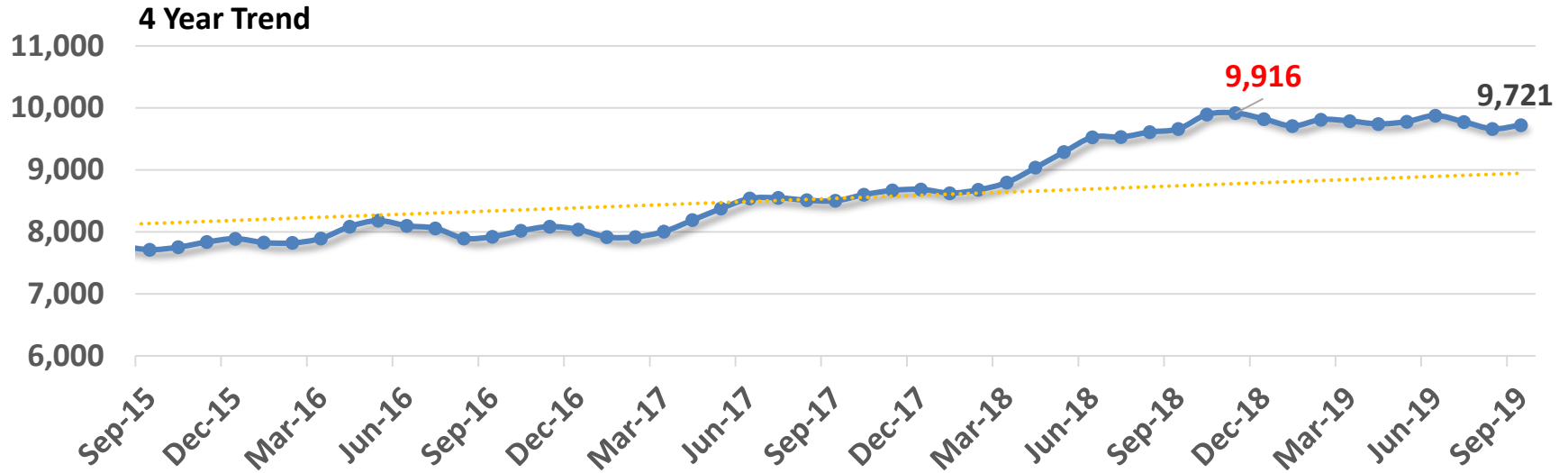


DATA-INFORMED

"The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice what we never expected to see." ~ John W. Tukey

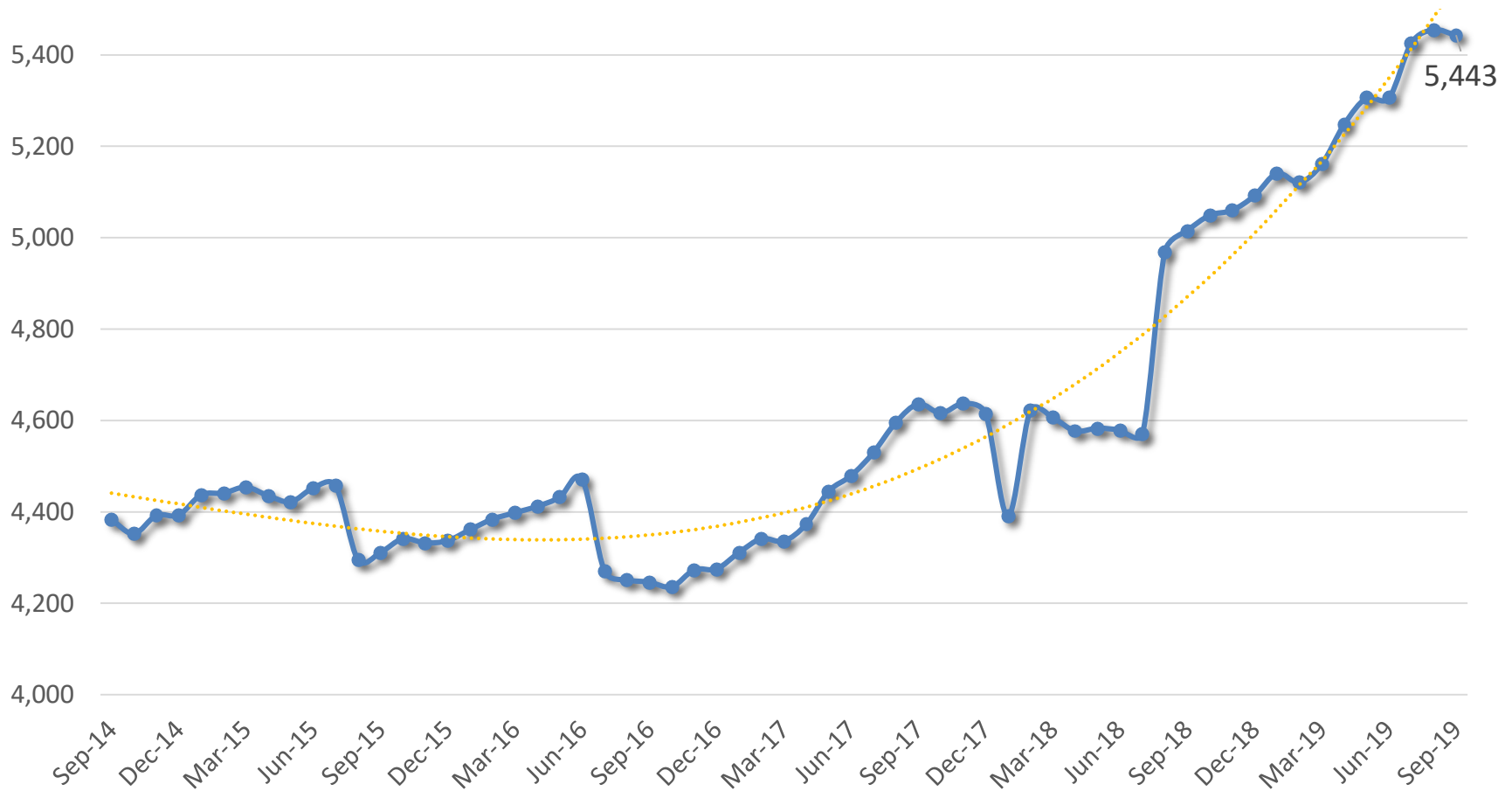


Number of Youth in Out of Home Care

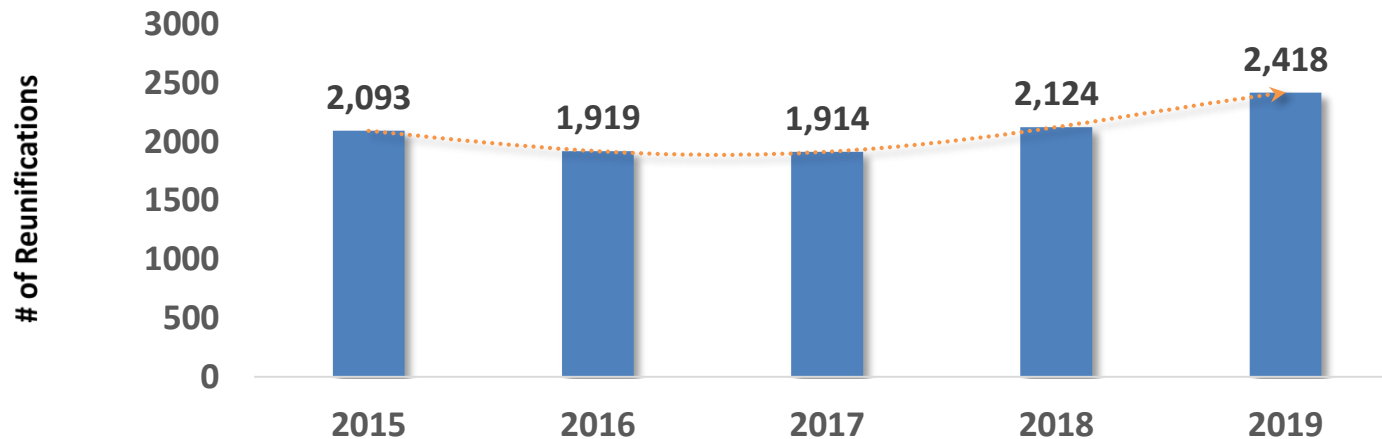
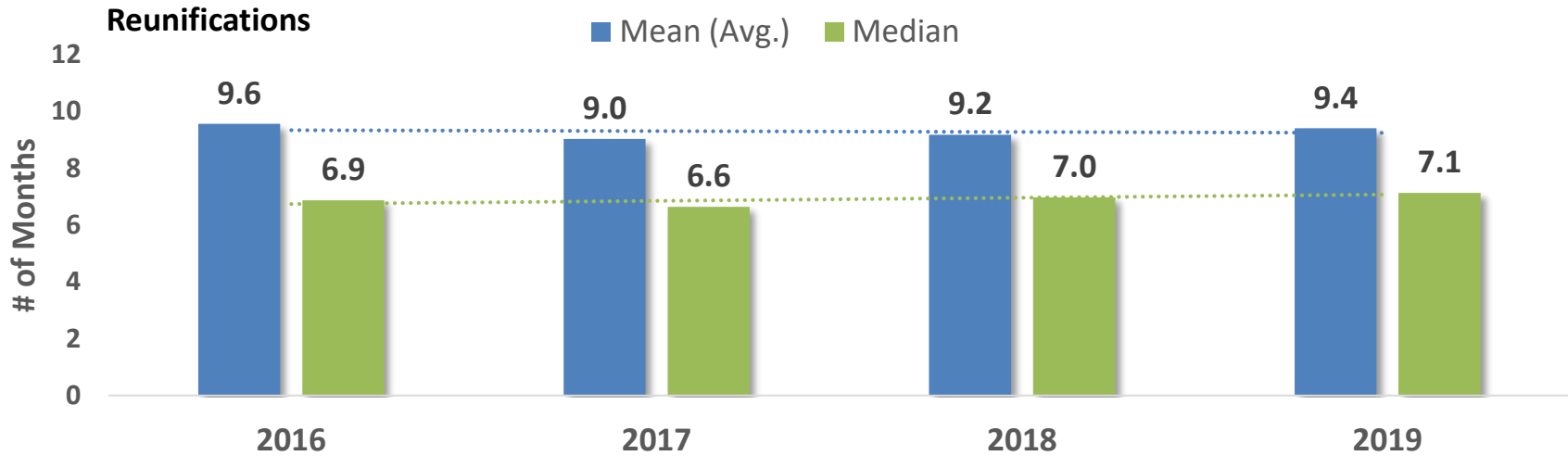


Total DCBS and PCP Foster Homes

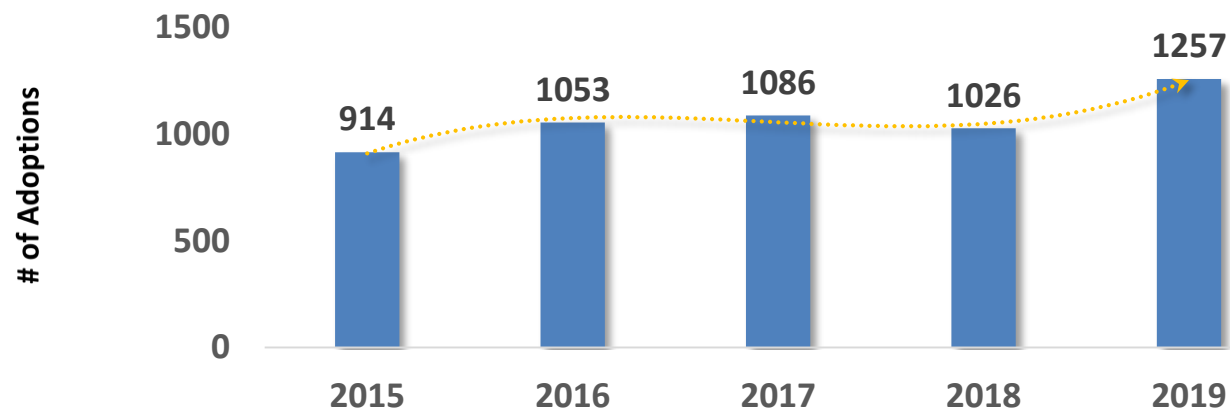
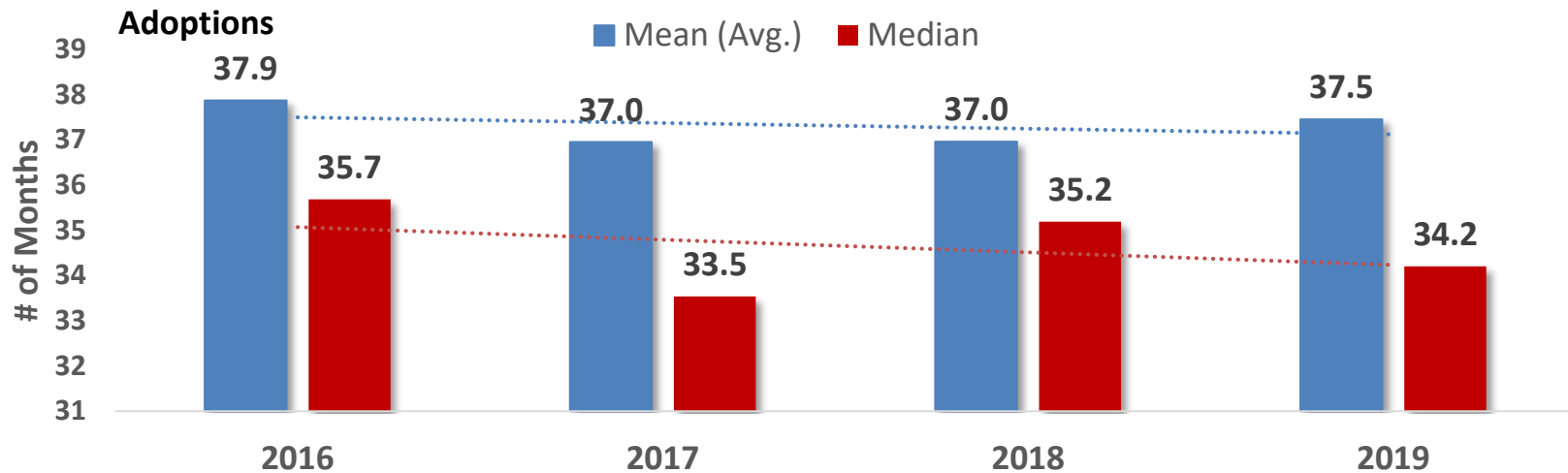
September 2014 – September 2019



Months to Permanency Reunifications

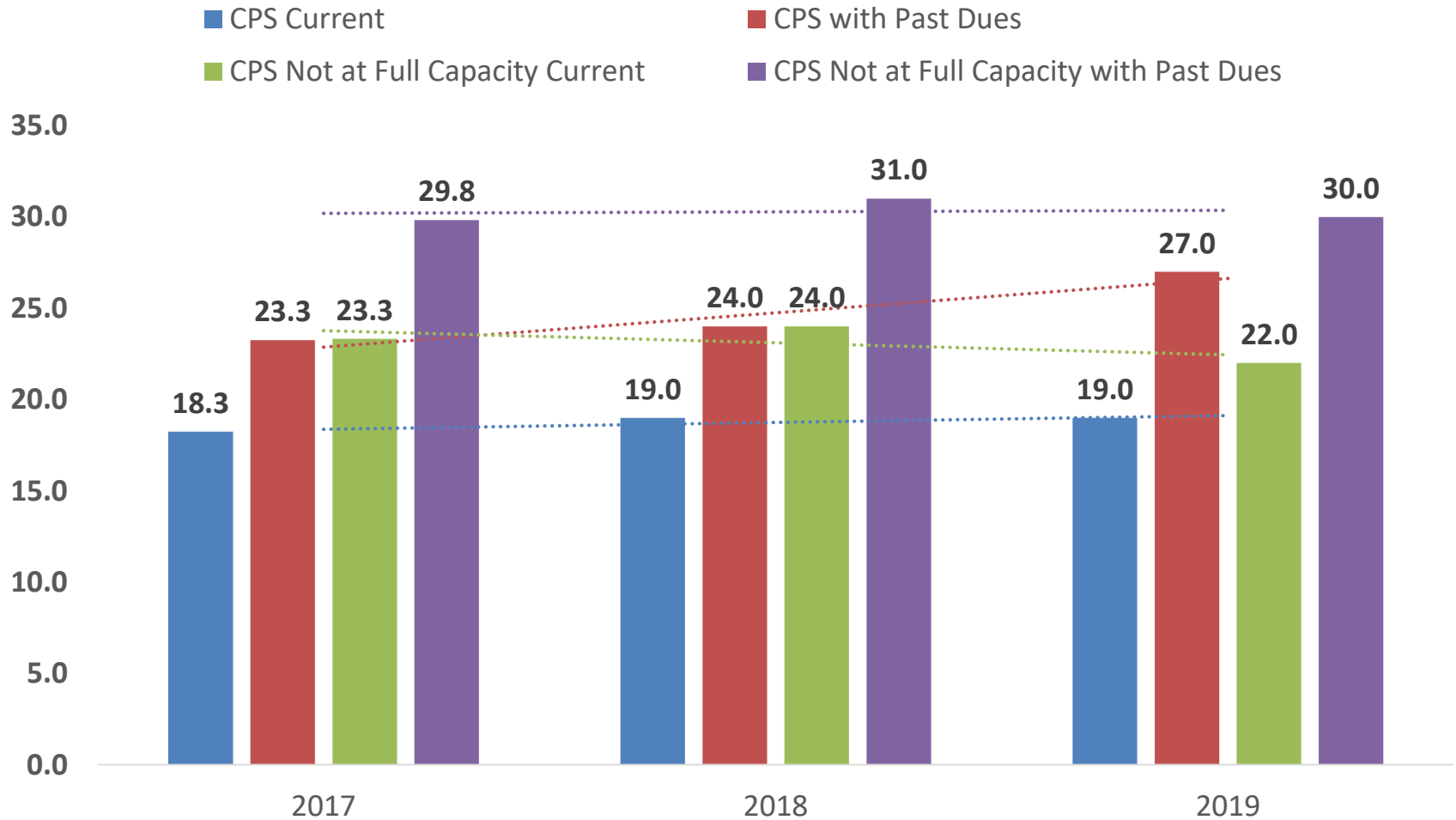


Months to Permanency Adoptions



Average CPS Caseloads

CY2017 – CY2019*



Worker Recruitment & Retention

- Worker recruitment videos
- Special entrance rate
- Certification/stipend programs
- Retention committees
- Field Training Specialist support
- Recent raises
- Career ladder

Culture of Safety

Three key transitions:

1. From a culture of blame to a culture of accountability;
2. From continuously applying quick fixes to addressing underlying systemic issues; and
3. From seeing employees as a problem to control to a solution to harness.



“It’s important for us to demonstrate to Brittany and our entire workforce that we care about them, because we need them. We’re not going to let bad outcomes define who we are.”

Being Good Stewards of an Unprecedented Opportunity

**The Family First Prevention Services Act:
A Key Lever in Kentucky's Child Welfare Transformation**

You can tell a lot about people, businesses, organizations, etc. in how they spend their money. Where are our priorities?

\$476M on OOH



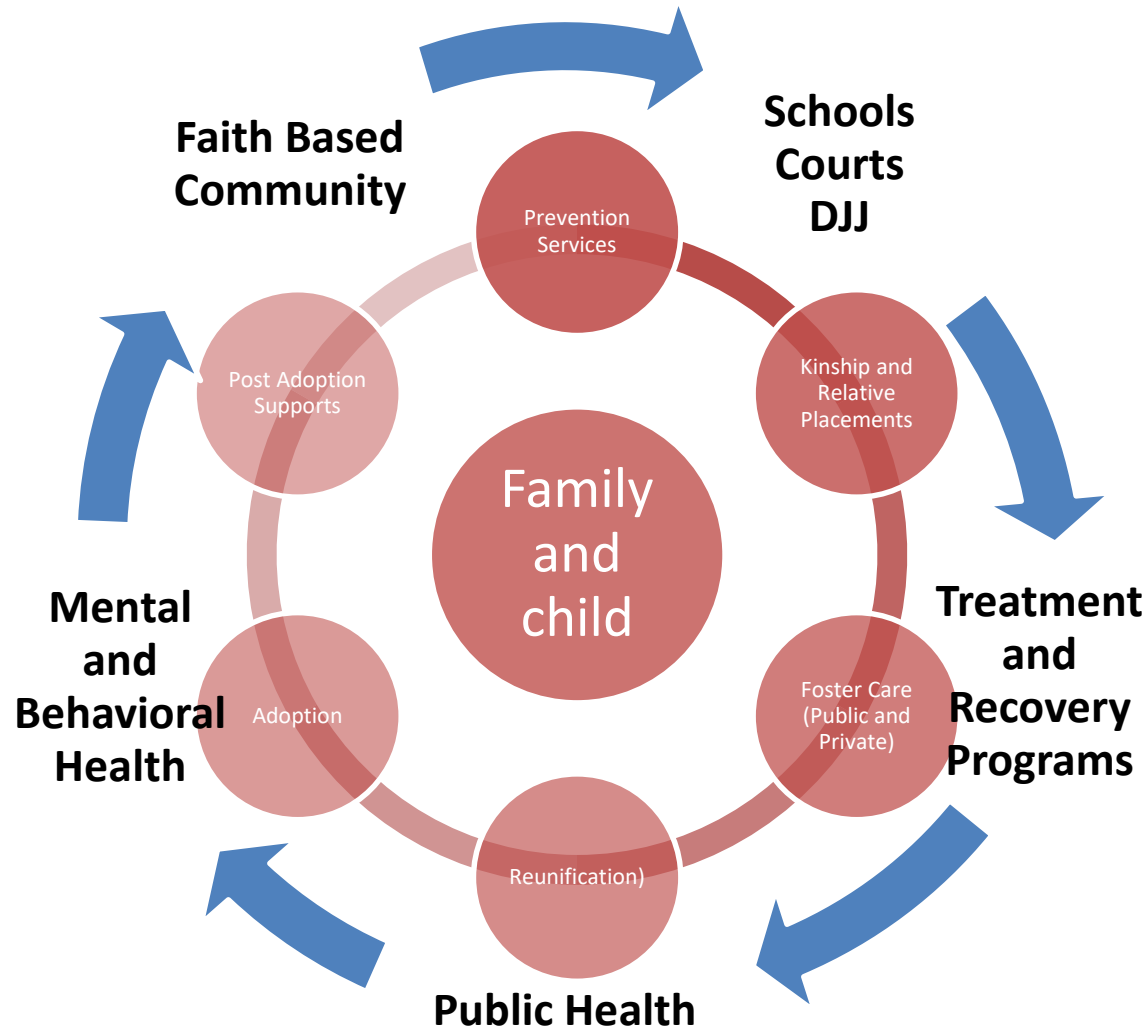
\$18M on prevention services



Of the \$18M spent on family preservation and prevention services, 96% of those families remained together and did not result in a child being removed from the home.

Why does it take a traumatic event that leads to the child being removed from their home in order for us to respond?

Redefining the System:



The narrative is changing...
Government alone isn't child welfare...
We are all child welfare.

#ChildWelfareBelongsToAllOfUs



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