CHILD WELFARE TRANSFORMATION

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

4 Year Trend

6 Month Trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr-19</td>
<td>9,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-19</td>
<td>9,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-19</td>
<td>9,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-19</td>
<td>9,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-19</td>
<td>9,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-19</td>
<td>9,721</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total DCBS and PCP Foster Homes

September 2014 – September 2019

5,443
Months to Permanency
Reunifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Months</th>
<th>Mean (Avg.)</th>
<th>Median</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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</table>

# of Reunifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Reunifications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,418</td>
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</table>
Months to Permanency Adoptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Adoptions</th>
<th>Mean (Avg.)</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>35.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1053</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>33.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1086</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1026</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1257</td>
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</table>
Average CPS Caseloads
CY2017 – CY2019*

*CY2019 is partial year including January, February and March

2017: 18.3
2018: 23.3
2019: 23.3

CPS Current
CPS with Past Dues
CPS Not at Full Capacity Current
CPS Not at Full Capacity with Past Dues
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 OOHC

$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:

- Family and child Prevention Services
- Kinship and Relative Placements
- Foster Care (Public and Private)
- Reunification
- Adoption
- Post Adoption Supports
- Schools Courts DJJ
- Treatmemt and Recovery Programs
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Faith Based Community
- Public Health
The narrative is changing…
Government alone isn’t child welfare...

We are all child welfare.

#ChildWelfareBelongsToAllOfUs

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- Twitter: @KyDCBS
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