

Supporting & Sustaining Permanency Part 2

June 28th, 2018



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Today's Speakers

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Kodi Baughman

*National Foster Care Youth &
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*Colorado Department of Human
Services*

Barbara Pryor

Casey Family Programs

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The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface with the following sections:

- Attendee List (2 | Max 1001):** A yellow arrow points to the top of this section. It contains a tab for "Attendees (1)" and "Staff (1)". Below the tabs is a dropdown menu set to "NAMES - ALPHABETICALLY" and a list with one entry: "Nick Pav (Me)". A search box is located below the list.
- Audio:** This section has a yellow arrow pointing to its left side. It includes radio buttons for "Telephone" (selected) and "Mic & Speakers". Below these are the dialing instructions: "Dial: +1 (480) 297-0020", "Access Code: 653-510-658", and "Audio PIN: 54". A pink banner contains the text "If you're already on the call, press #54# now." Below this is a blue link: "[Problem dialing in?](#)". A mouse cursor is positioned over the link.
- Questions:** A yellow arrow points to the left side of this section. It features a large empty text area for questions, a placeholder "[Enter a question for staff]", and a "Send" button at the bottom right.

At the bottom of the interface, the text reads: "Webinar", "Webinar ID: 726-486-617", and the "GoToWebinar" logo.

Overview of Today's Webinar

- **Constituent Story**
- **Colorado's Sustained Permanency Journey**
- **The Role of Family First**
- **Practical Steps to Support Sustain Permanency**
- **Wrap Up**

Polling Question #1

QUESTION:

What is your role?

ANSWER (please choose one)

- Direct service staff
- Administrator
- Court staff
- Researcher
- Other (*Please indicate in the Question section*)

Glossary of Terms

- Re-entry

Children who exit to legal permanency (reunification with parents or other relatives and guardianship) and return to care.

- Sustained Permanency

The continuing stability, safety, and well-being for children and youth who have moved from the temporary custody of the child welfare system into a permanent legal arrangement with committed caregivers.

SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

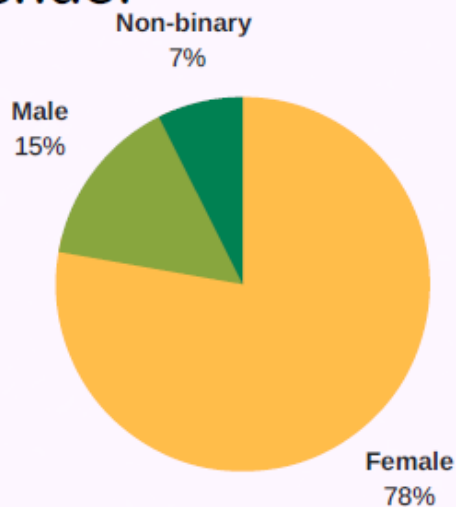
Denise Moore & Kodi Baughman

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS LEADS TO SUSTAINED PERMANENCY

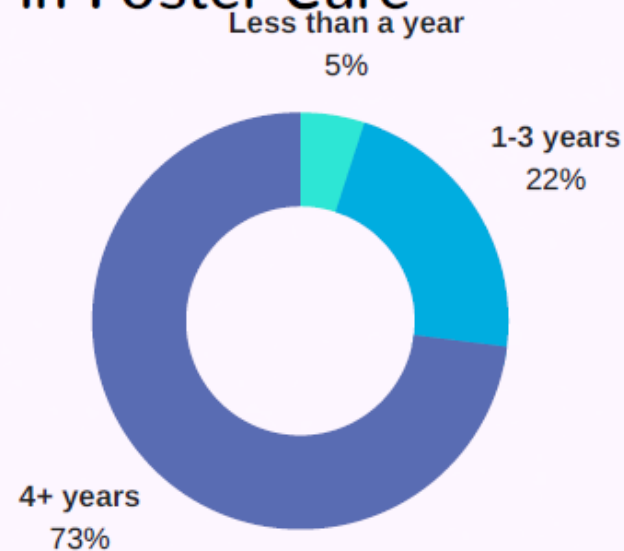
Survey on Youths' Experience Returning Home

Of the **106** respondents:

Gender



Time in Foster Care



When asked to describe preparation for return home:

- 46% of the youth felt there was no support provided when they returned home
- 25% said hardly any support was provided when they returned home
- 17% had some support provided when they returned home
- 3% were provided a lot of support when they returned home

Other Noteworthy Findings

- Only 10% received mental health services to support reunification and 58% felt it would of been helpful
- **63%** of youth surveyed who were reunified with family eventually returned to foster care. Only **37%** remained at home with no re-entry into care.

SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

Korey Elger
Colorado Department of Human Services

COLORADO SUSTAINED PERMANENCY PROJECT

CO Sustained Permanency Project



National Perspective: Re-entry Measures

- Re-entry stable over time nationally
- Removal reasons similar for first and second entries
- Evidence basis for effective programs limited
- However, some core components common among programs

<https://www.casey.org/media/supporting-lifelong-families-full.pdf>

Background for Colorado

- Our child welfare system is charged with achieving permanency both timely and without reentry. While Colorado continues to meet the federal goal of achieving permanency within 12 months, we struggle with children/youth reentering out-of-home care after an initial out-of-home care episode. The federal goal is for less than 8.3% of children/youth to reenter out-of-home care. The table below reflects Colorado's performance.

Report Period	SFY 10/11	SFY 11/12	SFY 12/13	SFY 13/14	SFY 14/15	SFY 15/16	SFY 16/17
% of all children who reentered OOH within 12 months of discharge	18.0%	18.8%	19.4%	20.3%	19.5%	18.8%	19.2%

(C-Stat) Re-Entry to Foster Care for Children Discharged Within the Last 12 Mo.

- Of all children discharged to permanency (reunification, living with a relative, guardianship, or adoption) during a 12-month target period, what percent re-entered foster care during the report month?

Maximum time for permanency and re-entry to occur (1yr)

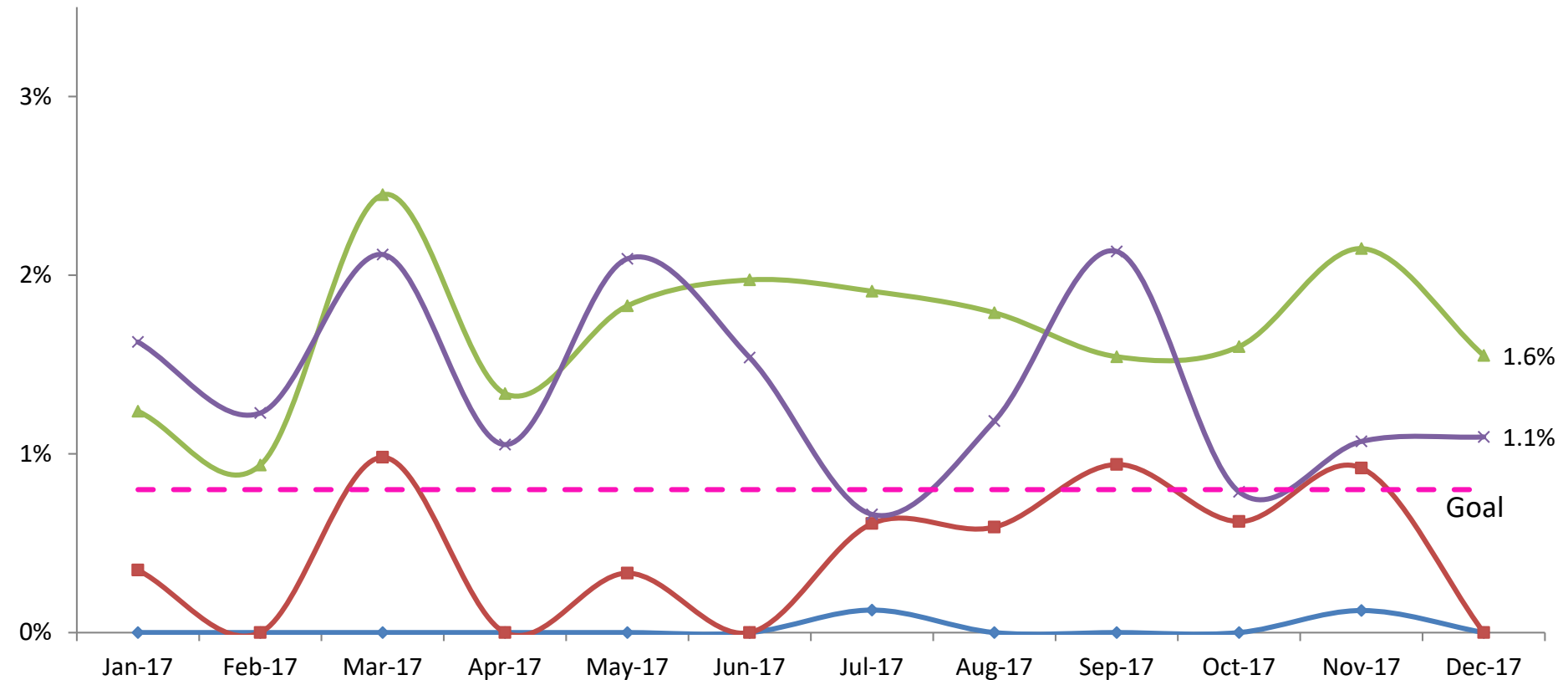


- Set standard: A goal of 0.8% has been set



Children Who Re-Enter Care within 12 Months: *By Discharge Type*

◆ Adoption
 ■ Guardianship
 ▲ Reunification
 × Other Relatives
 - - - Goal (.8%)



Reference Data



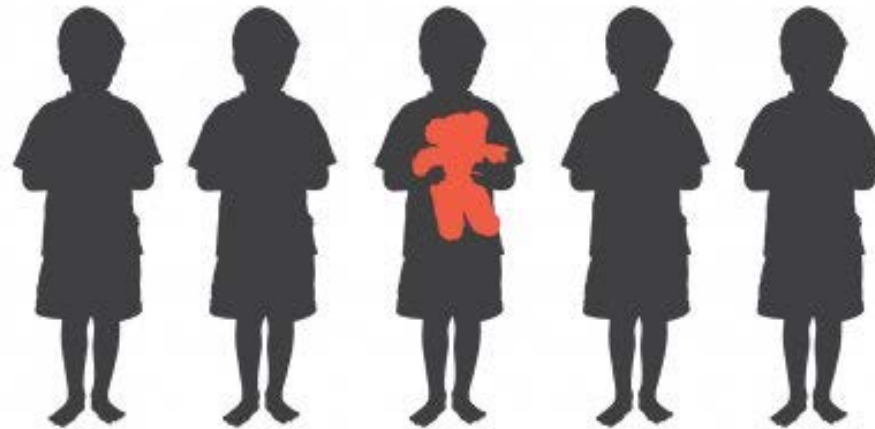
COLORADO

Office of Children,
Youth & Families

Division of Child Welfare

What does this look like for our kids?

Nearly one in five children currently in care was in out-of-home care previously.



Colorado launches the Sustained Permanency Project to prevent children from re-entering foster care.



The Beginning of the Sustained Permanency Project

- Exploration Committee- individuals from the Colorado child welfare system who have the collective expertise, and ability to inform decisions related to the development of a predictive analytics practice model to reduce reentries into out-of-home care.
- The Exploration Team has a diversity of perspectives, including county and state representation, practice and policy experience, and quality assurance, administrative and fiscal representation.

Identified Problem Statement

Colorado would like to reduce the incidence of the following measure: *Of the children ages 0-17 discharged to reunification with a parent within a rolling 12-month period that could have re-entered foster care, what percentage re-entered foster care in the current month?*

Pros:

- Timeliness
- Bigger denominator/ does not consider length of stay in care
- Including both abuse and neglect and delinquency cases

Why not CFSR?

CFSR Measure: The number of children who entered out-of-home care (OHC) in a 12-month period and exited within 12 months of their entry serves as the denominator. Of these children, those who re-entered care within 12 months of their exit make up the numerator.

Primary limitations when using this method:

- Intended to be considered alongside timely permanency within 12 month
- Thus only “timely” exits count- limited view
- C-Stat method avoids this problem and is more timely

What is going on in Colorado regarding the problem statement?

- For Colorado we know that the children who re-enter care are:

Children in abuse and neglect cases that have a first removal that is 1-3 months and then re-enter in the same case span.

THOUGHTS
ON THIS??



Coaching Model

- Analytics identify cases for review
- Prospective vs. Retrospective
- Appreciative inquiry/ Socratic process
- Emphasizes information synthesis and critical thinking
- Multiple perspectives and independent review mitigate tendency towards automatic consensus
- Eileen Munro https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4wREr5dN_Q

CO Sustainable Permanency Practice Model

Theory of Change

Purpose

The **Sustainable Permanency Practice Model** meets the **needs** of children, youth and families; **reduces** the **likelihood** of **reentry** into foster care; and **embeds permanency best practices** throughout the state for children and families. This practice model **will use case management and targeted services supported by a predictive analytics and coaching service delivery** strategy to ensure services for children and families match their needs **for sustained permanency**. Ongoing **coaching** will be provided to caseworkers and supervisors to support the **engagement of families in services and programs** based on specific **child and family needs**.

Assumptions

We believe in:

Commitment to **think critically** about interventions and supports provided to families – no check box approaches

Authentic collaboration

Engagement across all levels of the system: **state leadership, county directors and staff, service providers, and families**

Commitment to **using** the **processes** and **practices** as designed

Remaining **sensitive to cultural** and **contextual** needs

Benefits

Effective **services** and practices are **matched** to **families' needs**
Children and youth are **supported in their homes**
Staff feel **empowered** and **remain** at their jobs **longer**
Improved collaboration among state, county, and local partners
Allocation of resources becomes more **effective** and efficient

CO Sustainable Permanency Practice Model **Theory of Change**

Apply Implementation Science Concepts at the **STATE LEVEL**



What works



How it works



Where and with whom it works

Apply Implementation Science Concepts at the **COUNTY LEVEL**



What works



How it works



Where and with whom it works

- Developing state and county capacity to use predictive analytics data to identify child/youth and families at high risk for reentry into foster care
- Identifying effective practices to support sustainable permanency
- Developing systems (communication, data, training, coaching) to support delivery of effective permanency practices in the field
- Creating or aligning current administrative and data systems to support initial and sustained use of permanency practices

- Developing staff skills and support systems to use predictive analytics data to identify child/youth and families at high risk for reentry into foster care
- Contextualizing effective practices to support sustainable permanency for local delivery
- Developing county processes and procedures to deliver effective permanency practices used in the field
- Creating or aligning current administrative and data systems to support initial and sustained use of permanency practices

Accurate **use of predictive analytics data** to identify child/youth and families at greatest risk for reentry to foster care

Permanency practices aligned to meet all child/youth and family needs

Coaching and supports for case workers and supervisors to support full and effective **use of permanency practices**

Sustained permanency for child, youth, and families

Improved safety and wellbeing for child, youth, and families

Inputs and strategies

Implementation Activities

Outputs and Interim Outcomes

Population-Level Change

Polling Question #2

QUESTION:

What techniques has your organization used to examine re-entry data?

ANSWER (please choose one)

- Dashboards
- Case reviews
- Multivariate analyses
- Predictive Analytics
- Other (*Please indicate in the Question section*)

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Barbara Pryor

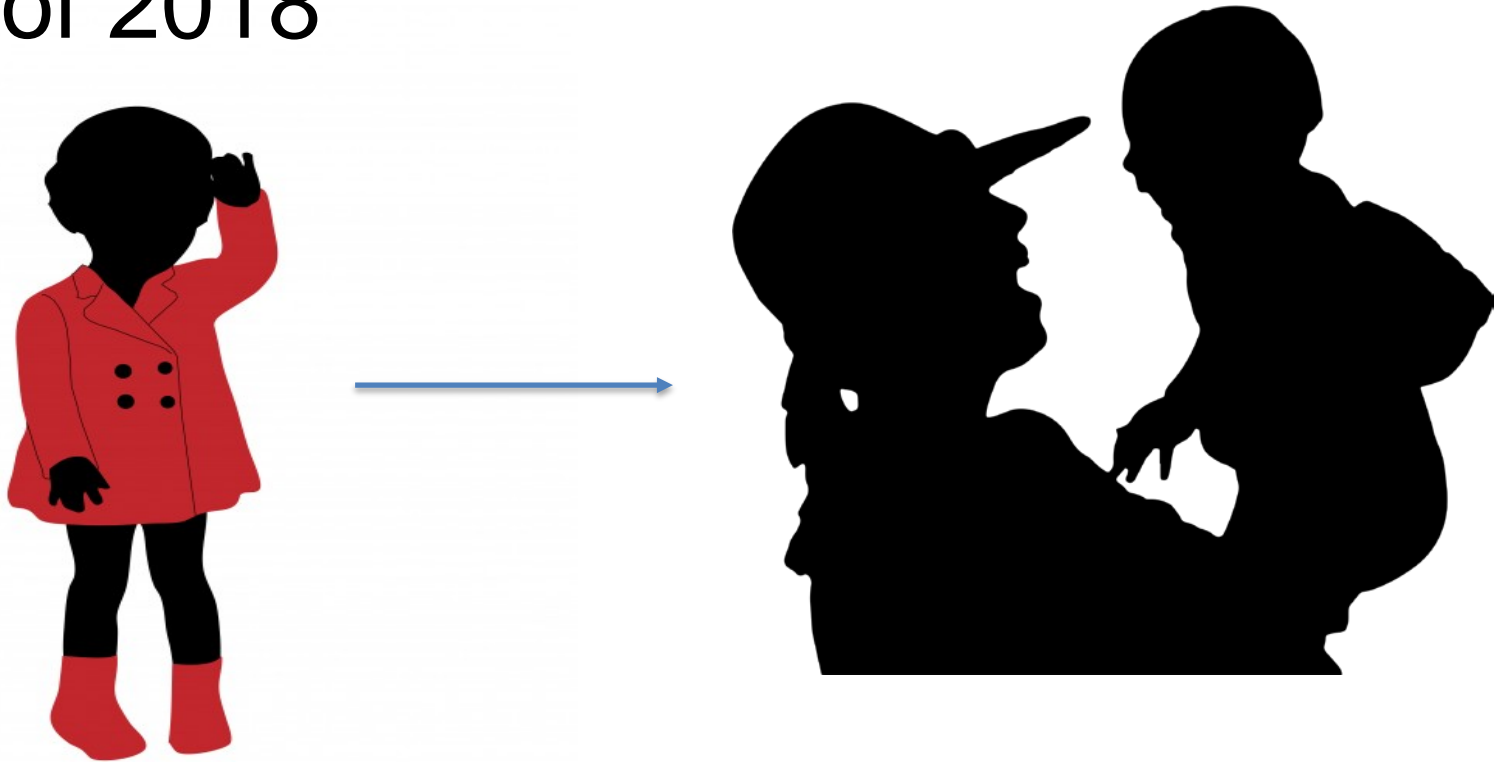
Casey Family Programs

THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (P.L. 115-123) OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINED PERMANENCY

Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018

- The Family First Prevention Services Act was passed and signed into law (P.L. 115-123) as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018.
- Culmination of years of discussion among key Congressional leaders who share a vision and are passionate about keeping children safely with their families.
 - Over 500 organizations supported this Act

Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018



Family-centered policies that will help pave the way to allow more children to safely be served in their homes, families, and communities.



Renamed Title Suggests a New Focus and Direction for Federal Child Welfare

Language does matter:

Part E of the Social Security Act was renamed from Foster Care and Adoption Assistance to:

Federal Payments for Foster Care, Prevention and Permanency

New Funding for Prevention Activities

- Allows states to receive open-ended entitlement (Title IV-E) funding for evidence-based prevention services

What: Allows the following services to be reimbursed

- Mental health prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician for not more than a 12 month period.
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician for not more than a 12 month period.
- In-home parent skill-based programs that include parenting skills training, parent education and individual and family counseling for not more than a 12 month period.

There is no limit on how many times a child and family can receive prevention services.

New Funding for Prevention Activities

- Allows states to receive open-ended entitlement (Title IV-E) funding for evidence-based prevention services

Who: 1) Children at imminent risk of placement in foster care and their parents or kinship caregivers, or 2) pregnant and parenting youth in foster care are eligible.

- No income test for eligibility
- Defines children who are “candidates for foster care” as those who can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services or programs

New Funding for Prevention Activities

- Requires services and programs to be promising, supported, or well-supported, to qualify for reimbursement.
 - Requires the Secretary of HHS to issue guidance to states regarding the practices criteria required for services or programs under this section by Oct. 1, 2018. This guidance must include a pre-approved list of services and programs that satisfy the requirements.
- Requires a state to submit a prevention and services program plan as part of the state's Title IV-E plan including a number of components that include a description of how the state will administer the program, determine eligibility, train caseworkers and numerous other items.

Eligibility for Prevention Activities

- House Committee Report 114-628 includes the following to provide further information on Congressional intent

....Under the eligibility criteria for new prevention services in title IV-E, the Committee recognized that children may come to the attention of the child welfare system and be considered at imminent risk of entry into foster care in a wide variety of scenarios. Accordingly, the Committee intentionally did not attempt to provide an exhaustive list of the living situations and caregiver dynamics that would trigger eligibility for the evidence-based mental health, substance abuse, and parent skill-building services made available under this bill.

Eligibility for Prevention Activities (cont)

*“The Committee believes the intent of this legislation is for states to use these new matching funds in **the panoply of possible scenarios under which a child may be at imminent risk of entering foster care** and would likely enter but for the provision of support services.*

The following represents examples, but is by no means an exhaustive list, of the types of scenarios during which a state could claim a match for title IV-E prevention services on behalf of a child and his or her caregivers:



Committee Report Illustrative Examples

When an adopted child is at risk of entering or re-entering foster care, these prevention services can come in the form of post-adoption supports and be made available so that such parents need not relinquish their parental right in order to access such services;

Illustrative Examples (cont)

- *When a child in a formal or informal kinship placement is at imminent risk of entering or re-entering foster care, these prevention services can be made available;*
- *When a child is living with his or her parents and is deemed as being at imminent risk of entering foster care, but a relative caregiver could to become the guardian if provided prevention services, such services can be made available;*

Illustrative Examples (cont)

- *If a child at a young age was deemed a candidate for care and his or her caregiver received services under this bill and years later the child was again deemed at imminent risk of entry later in life, this bill would allow for the state to draw down prevention services under title IV-E at both points in the child's and family's lives; or*
- *When a child is living with his or her parents and is deemed as being at imminent risk of entering foster care, but can remain safely at home through the provision of prevention services.*

New Funding to Support Keeping Families Together During Substance Use Treatment

- Beginning October 1, 2018, Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments can be made on behalf of a child in foster care who is placed with their parent in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for up to 12 months.
 - No income test applies for these services.
- This opportunity exists regardless of whether a state chooses to operate a prevention program through Title IV-E.

Promoting Timely Permanency for Children Across State Lines

- Provides \$5 million in new grants to states to expand the development of the electronic system to expedite the interstate placement across state lines of children in foster care, guardianship or adoption.
- Requires that states use an electronic interstate case processing system by October 2027.

Additional Select Provisions of Family First

- Requires inclusion in the state plan of a description of activities to address developmental needs of young children.
- Revises and renames the definition of “family reunification services” (formerly “time-limited family reunification services”) in the Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families program.
 - Allows 15 months of services for children who return home from foster care
 - Removes the 15-month limitation for a child in foster care

Changes in the John H. Chafee Program for Independent Living

Language matters: the program is renamed:

- **Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood**

STRIKE: “identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and to help these children make the transition to *self sufficiency* by providing services”

INSERT: “support all youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood through transitional services”;

Changes in the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transitions to Adulthood

STRIKE: “who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment”

INSERT: “who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older achieve meaningful, permanent connections with a caring adult”;

Changes in the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

STRIKE: “who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions”

INSERT: “who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience”;

Changes in the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

Policy changes:

- It allows a State which expanded Title IV-E foster care to youth from age 18 to 21 to further provide services to youth up to age 23
- Youth can use the education and training vouchers (ETV) up to age 26. They have 5 years non-consecutive eligibility for education and training.

Key Changes in Foster Care Placements

The law prioritizes keeping families together with new prevention services, but if a child must be removed, there are stronger incentives for family placements, and new limits on residential placements eligible for federal reimbursements, now called:

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPS)

What is a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)?

- Has a trauma informed treatment model and a registered or licensed nursing and other licensed clinical staff onsite, consistent with the QRTP's treatment model.
- Facilitates outreach and engagement of the child's family in the child's treatment plan
- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months
- Licensed and accredited

There are no time limits on how long a child or youth can be placed in a QRTP as long as the placement continues to meet his/her needs as determined in assessment.

QRTP:

Family and Permanency Team Required

The family and permanency team shall consist of all appropriate biological family members, relative, and fictive kin of the child, as well as, as appropriate, professionals who are a resource to the family of the child, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers who have treated the child, or clergy.

In the case of a child who has attained age 14, the family and permanency team shall include the members of the permanency planning team for the child that are selected by the child



Take Homes for Sustained Permanency

1. The Family First Prevention Services Act shifts the focus to permanency at all levels
2. The ability to provide evidence based prevention services – in birth, kinship or adoptive placements to avoid re-entry into care.

Take Homes for Sustained Permanency (cont)

3. It offers longer support after reunifications under Promoting Safe and Stable Families for the full 15 months after a child return home to avoid re-entry. This is limited funding rather than entitlement funds.
4. It offers 6 months of aftercare post placement in a QRTP
5. It reforms the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transitions to Adulthood to emphasis permanent connections

Polling Question # 3

QUESTION:

How is your organization planning on using Family First to support sustained permanency?

ANSWER (please choose one)

- Have not had discussions
- Have discussed interventions to implement
- Have identified specific interventions to implement
- Other (*Please indicate in the Question section*)

Questions?



SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

Kirk O'Brien
Casey Family Programs

PRACTICAL STEPS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINED PERMANENCY

Recap of today's webinar (June 28)

1. Importance of informal & community supports to sustain permanency
2. How an agency can combine values, predictive analytics and coaching into a sustained permanency approach
3. Opportunities *Family First* provides for sustaining permanency

Practical Steps to Support Sustained Permanency

1



Reframe as Sustained Permanency

Reframe post-permanency (and re-entry) work as sustained permanency

2



Make Most of Data

Explore different types of re-entry data

Examine predictors of re-entry

Create dashboard with goals

3



Examine/Maximize Funding

Examine traditional & non-traditional funding streams to determine if financial support is being maximized

4



Enhance Agency Approach

Catalog policies & services to determine gaps

Assess expertise & enhance coaching for sustained permanency

5



Engage Youth/Families

Meaningfully engage youth & families around sustained permanency

Twitter

Using #SustainedPermanency

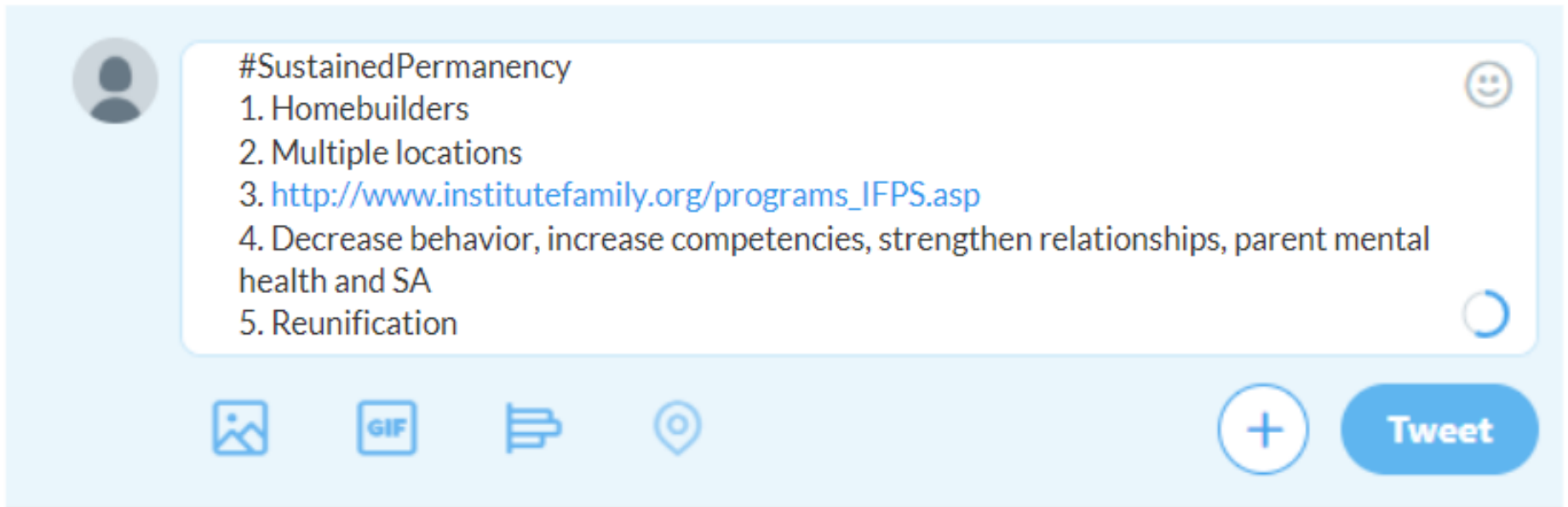
- Post questions and thoughts
- Tell us about your sustained permanency programs
 - We will summarize & post to CWLA & Casey websites

Twitter (cont)

Provide the following:

1. Program name
2. County & State
3. Website
4. Primary focus (Decrease child behavior problems, Increase parent competencies, Strengthen relationships, Other [explain])
5. Outcome targeted (Reunification, Adoption, Guardianship, or combination)

Twitter (cont): Example





For more information

ResearchTeam@casey.org

<https://www.casey.org/Sustained-Permanency-Webinar>

Resources

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC)

- <http://www.cebc4cw.org/topic/post-permanency-services/>

National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG)

- <https://qic-ag.org/>

Effectively Implementing Effective Practices for Sustainable Permanency: A Synthesis of Research and Practice

- <https://www.casey.org/Sustained-Permanency-Webinar>

National Foster Youth & Alumni Policy Council

- www.nationalpolicycouncil.org

Resources (cont)

CWLA's Children's Voice article... *Ten Practical Steps to Support Sustained Permanency*

- <https://www.cwla.org/from-the-next-issue-of-childrens-voice-ten-practical-steps-to-support-sustained-permanency/>

Supporting Lifelong Families: Steps Child Welfare Agencies Can Take to Prevent Children From Re-entering Foster Care

- <https://www.casey.org/supporting-lifelong-families-action-plan/>

Supporting Lifelong Families: Ensuring Long-Lasting Permanency and Well-Being

- <https://www.casey.org/supporting-lifelong-families/>

Wrap Up



Contact Information



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