Presentation to JJOC





Leading for Results

July 21, 2023

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Leading for Results

KS Team: Melinda Kline, Stacy Tidwell, Ashley Johnson, Scott Henricks, DCF Regional Leadership, Case Management Providers



Center team:

Leanne Heaton, Ph.D., LCSW, Center Consultant and Senior Researcher at Chapin Hall Charlotte Goodell, MPP, Center Consultant and Policy Analyst at Chapin Hall Tabitha Pomeroy, State/Territory Liaison, Tailored Services, Center for States Kerry Littlewood, Ph.D., MSW, Evaluation Capacity Building Coach, Center for States Jennifer Rhodes, Lived Experience Engagement Specialist, Center for States Michele Lueders, MAM, Center Consultant, Center for States

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To review the history of the LFR workgroup, the data, Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Theory of Change (TOC)
- 2. To illustrate national trends consistent with RCA
- 3. To discuss national initiatives consistent with the TOC

The Scope/Introduction

Children and youth in foster care in Kansas experience high rates of placement instability, with some children and youth moving between placements far too frequently

DCF engaged the Center to:

Understand more about the children/youth moving between placements and why

Conduct root cause analysis to describe the scope and scale of Kansas's challenges with placement instability

Identify whether contributing factors and root causes fueling the problem have been correctly identified

Develop a theory of change for improving placement stability

The Venue for Change: Phase 1 of the Leading for Results (LFR) Workgroup

Prior to Center's involvement

Established by
DCF in July 2020
to explore and
recommend
strategies
to improve
placement
stability statewide



Composed of representatives from Kansas's eight catchment area groups for foster care providers and facilitated by DCF leadership



Applied appreciative inquiry to identify themes, make assumptions, and apply initial strategies related the front door to child welfare and placement stability

Venue for Change: LFR Workgroup and Phase 1 Efforts

LFR Assumptions	Strategies						
When children/youth are placed with family/people that they know they are more likely to be stable and not need non-related foster care placement	Increase initial placements with relatives through the Kansas Practice Model						
When children's/youth's mental health and/or behavioral needs are met they are more likely to stable	 Increase staff that have clinical background to ensure they have the right services to meet needs Ensure access to mental health services 						
When children/youth are in placements that meet their needs and maintain their connections they are more likely to be stable	 Increase matching of children/youth and foster parents Increase support to foster parents Recruit more foster homes from communities where children live 						

Venue for Change: Phase 2 of the LFR Workgroup with Center's Engagement

Identify
strategies
that are
working and
where
challenges
remain



Leverage
data to
further
contextualize
and
understand
root causes



Conduct targeted analysis of root cause assumptions



Articulate
theory of
change to
inform
strategies to
improve
placement
stability

Center's Role with the LFR

Guide root cause analysis and research solutions to address root causes Support
assessment
and selection
of solution(s)
to address
root causes to
develop a
robust theory
of change

Provide expert consultation on implementing and sustaining solutions

Leanne Heaton, PhD, Center Consultant and Senior Researcher at Chapin Hall Charlotte Goodell, MPP, Center Consultant and Associate Policy Analyst at Chapin Hall Christine DeTienne, MSW, State/Territory Liaison, Tailored Services
Tabitha Pomeroy, State/Territory Liaison, Tailored Services, Center for States Kerry Littlewood, Ph.D., MSW, Evaluation Capacity Building Coach, Center for States Jennifer Rhodes, Lived Experience Engagement Specialist, Center for States Michele Lueders, MAM, Center Consultant, Center for States



Leading for Results: What we've done

July 2020: Leading for **Results**

launch

June 2021: Center for States support

August 2021: Leading for Results

November 2021: Leading for **Results**

January & March 2022: Leading for **Results**

June & **August** 2022: Leading for Results

November 2022 Leading for Results

Most recent **January**

2023

Leading

for

Results

















Appreciative inquiry to get to placement stability

Data-driven exploration: Data plan, analysis, & findings

Further contextualize & understand contributing factors

Targeted discussion of root causes

Causal links exploration & stakeholder vetting

Theory of change Theory of articulation

change finalization & overview of applicable state and national initiatives

LEADING FOR RESULTS: TOP 3 ROOT CAUSES OF PLACEMENT INSTABILITY

Our data shows the majority of those experiencing placement instability: Older youth ages 13 to 18 with higher levels of disabilities/needs

Placement instability is not just a foster care problem is it directly related to key points throughout the entire child welfare system

COMMUNITY PREVENTION





INADEQUATE
COMMUNITYBASED
PREVENTION
SERVICES
TO SERVE
OLDER HIGH
NEEDS YOUTH

FRONT DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE

#2



FRONT DOOR
INTO
FOSTER CARE
IS TOO WIDE
DUE TO A LACK
OF
UNDERSTANDING
OF THE ROLE
OF FOSTER CARE

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS





LACK OF PLACEMENTS FOR OLDER YOUTH WITH INTENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS

LEADING FOR RESULTS: PLACEMENT INSTABILITY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO ROOT CAUSES

Community Prevention

Inadequate community-based prevention services to serve older higher-needs youth

Policy & Practice

- Lack of community readiness for SB 367
- Lack of multidisciplinary team meetings in rural counties for high risk youth

Community & Organizational Resources

- Lack of access to services needed due to affordability or transportation challenges
- Lack of available resources to families struggling with other needs (not struggling with abuse or neglect), including services for mental health and parenting support (inhome services, mentoring/support networks, respite, etc.)
- Lack of available substance use disorder providers for youth (especially in rural areas)
- Inadequate discharge planning and supports from Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

Front Door of Child Welfare
Lack of understanding of the role of
foster care

Policy & Practice

- Lack of system readiness for SB 367
- Juvenile justice does not have out-of-home placement option other than incarceration
- Ability for non-DCFS staff to petition removal
- Policy knowledge gaps for new staff
- Steady increase in removals that are NOT related to abuse/neglect (i.e. FINA)

External Factors

- Misunderstanding by community providers and courts about foster care's ability to facilitate or speed up access to services
- Court decision-making misaligned with DCF recommendation (removals due to truancy or juvenile justice) & Courts uncomfortable with TDM recommendations
- Police protective custody criteria misaligned with DCF's criteria for out-of-home placement
- Courts use foster care as punishment and/or when they do not trust parents to follow

Foster Care Placements

Lack of placements for older youth with
intensive behavioral health needs

Policy & Practice

- Practice of placing older youth with challenging behaviors outside of their community
- Policy does not allow placement with relatives with DCF history or past legal charges, or out of state relative to be initial placement
- Policy does not allow informal relative placements without making foster care referral
- Lack of family engagement to identify relative resources (i.e. parents assume relatives do not wish to serve as resources)

Community & Organizational Resources

- Lack of robust supports for relatives to care for older youth and stabilize placements
- Foster homes not designed for high-needs intensive youth with mental health and challenging behavioral problems

Theory of Change

- Foster care has the available resources to meet the needs of children and youth to achieve stable permanency.
- Foster care is used as a temporary solution for children and youth who are unsafe and relatives are first and best placement.
- 3. Fewer youth enter foster and are stable in their communities
- Youth with intensive behavioral health needs have the right communitybased resources to meet their needs.
- Our policies, practices, fiscal and community resources are strategically aligned with our behavioral health, juvenile justice, and court systems to create a comprehensive prevention service array for older youth.

Root Causes:

- Inadequate community-based prevention services to serve older high needs youth
- 2. Front door into child welfare is too wide due to a lack of understanding of the role of foster care
- 3. Lack of placements for older youth with intensive behavioral health needs

Problem: Too many youth ages 13 to 17 with intensive behavioral health needs are being placed into foster care and experiencing placement instability because the right placements do not exist because foster care system is not designed or equipped to be a solution for this population.

Target population: Older youth ages 13 to 18 with higher levels of disabilities/needs

Change and Implementation Model



Capacity Building Center for States. (2018). Change and implementation in practice: Overview. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Data we reviewed

Gender, age, and race

Presence of disability

Parent status

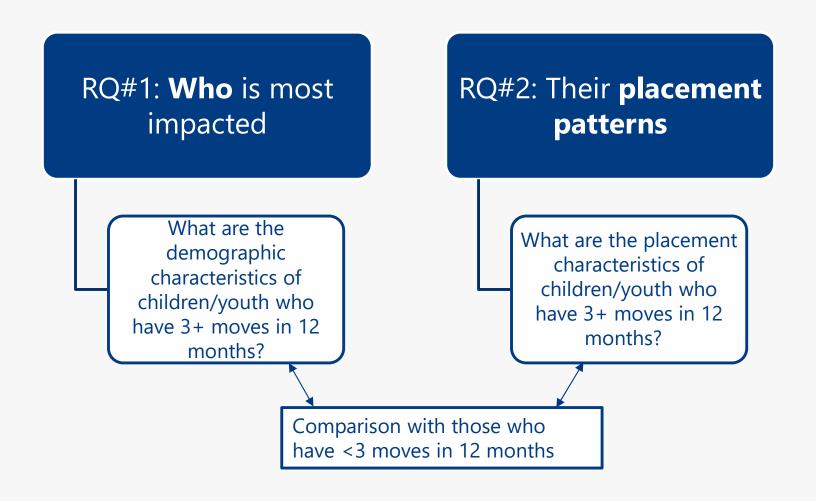


History of running away

Initial placement type



Data Plan: What we want to learn about placement instability



Question #1: What the data tells us





SFY 2019			SFY 2020			SFY	2021	SFY	2022	SFY 2023 (partial)			
Gender	#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%	#	%		
Male	377	55.7%	181	47.5%		393	50.8%	409	52.4%	267	50.5%		
Female	300	44.3%	200	52.5%		380	49.2%	371	47.6%	262	49.5%		
Race								į					
White	518	76.5%	299	78.5%		614	79.4%	610	78.2%	401	75.8%		
Black	146	21.6%	73	19.2%		145	18.8%	154	19.7%	113	21.4%		
AI/AN	11	1.6%	5	1.3%		9	1.2%	11	1.4%	10	1.9%		
Asian	2	0.3%	1	0.3%		0	0.0%	4	0.5%	5	0.9%		
NH/PI	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		2	0.3%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%		
UTD	0	0.0%	3	0.8%		3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Age													
<1	5	0.7%	7	1.8%		17	2.2%	17	2.2%	9	1.7%		
1-3	46	6.8%	28	7.3%		57	7.4%	50	6.4%	29	5.5%		
4-6	69	10.2%	21	5.5%		61	7.9%	53	6.8%	35	6.6%		
7-9	79	11.7%	28	7.3%		65	8.4%	73¦	9.4%	45	8.5%		
10-12	111	16.4%	78	20.5%		122	15.8%	136	17.4%	89	16.8%		
13-15	190	28.1%	157	41.2%		302	39.1%	288	36.9%	206	38.9%		
16-18	177	26.1%	62	16.3%		149	19.3%	163	20.9%	116	21.9%		
Disability								ļ					
Yes	264	39.0%	155	40.7%		315	40.8%	356	45.6%	374	70.7%		
No	413	61.0%	226	59.3%		458	59.2%	424	54.4%	155	29.3%		
Any history of r	unning a	way											
Yes	162	23.9%	127	33.3%		169	21.9%	170	21.8%	116	21.9%		
No	515	76.1%	254	66.7%		604	78.1%	610	78.2%	413			

Placement instability trends

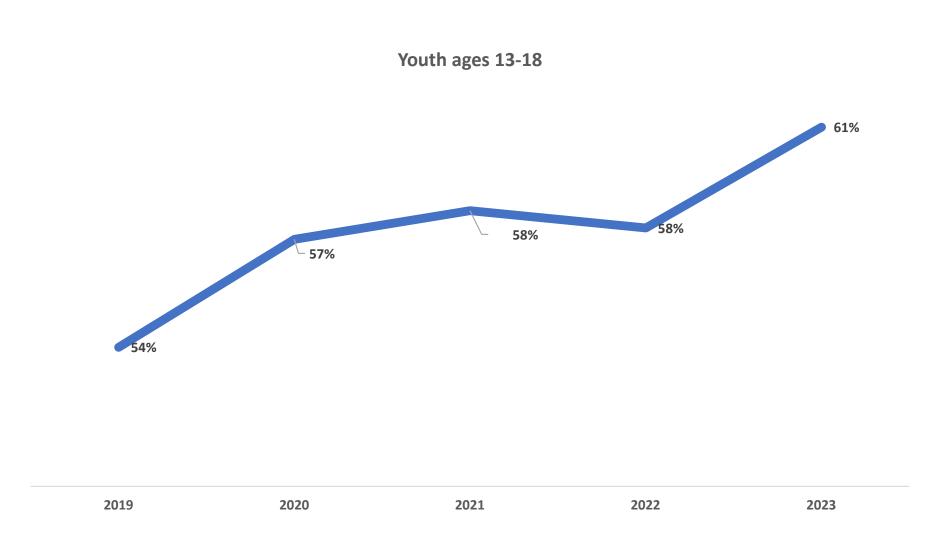
- Males
- Overrepresentation of Black children/youth
- Al/AN who/where are they

- 61% 13-18 years
- 71% disability
- 22% history of running away

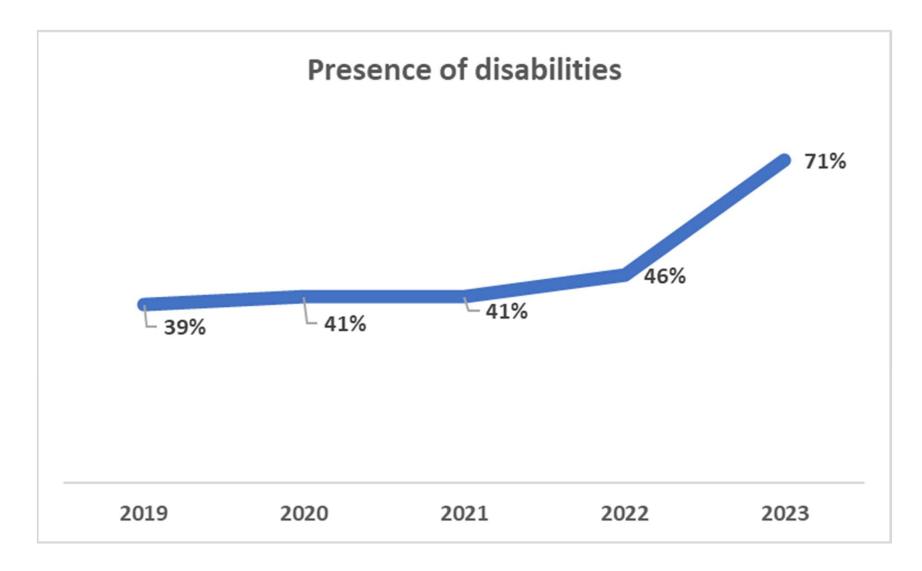
Data pulled by Kansas analysts.

Data source: Kansas Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS)

Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months Demographic trends - Age



Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months Demographic trends – Disabilities



Definition of disabilities is based on Federal AFCARS reporting guidance and can be found here: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars tb1.pdf

Data source: Kansas Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS), SFY 2019 – SFY 2023 (partial)

Question #2: What the data tells us

Table 2b. Placement characteristics 3+ placement moves in 12 months

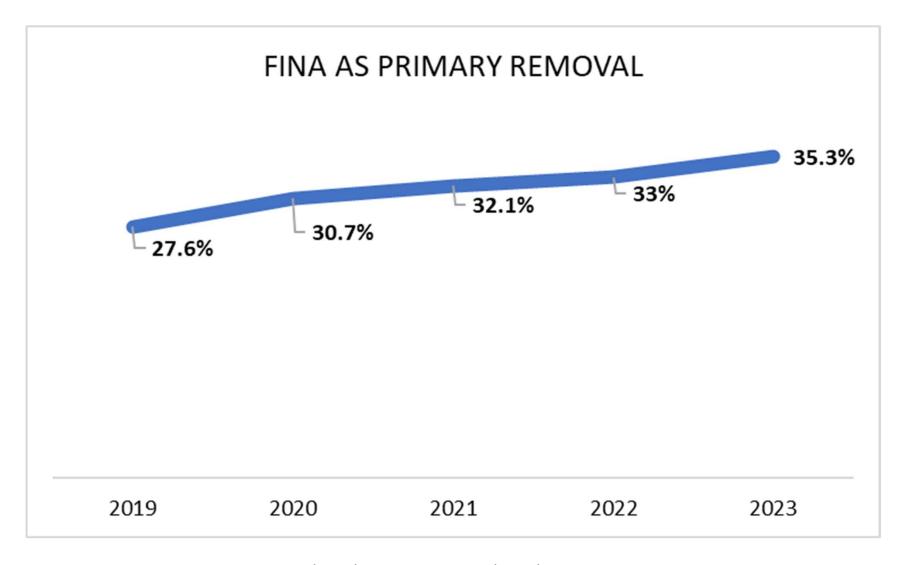


#	•			SFY 2020			SFY 2021			SFY 2022			SFY 2023 (parital)		
	%		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%		
490	72.4%		264	69.3%		525	67.9%		522	66.9%		342	64.7%		
187	27.6%	_	117	30.7%		248	32.1%		258	33.1%		187	35.3%		
· - i						 						[-			
418	61.7%		189	49.6%		429	56.4%		424	55.1%		275	52.4%		
157	23.2%		101	26.5%		218	28.6%		212	27.6%		150	28.6%		
0	0.0%		0	0.0%		1	0.1%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%		
40	5.9%		44	11.6%		87	11.4%		97	12.6%		73	13.9%		
40	5.9%		20	5.3%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%		
7	1.0%		1	0.3%		0	0.0%		4	0.5%		1	0.2%		
2	0.3%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%		
13	1.9%		26	6.8%		26	3.4%		32	4.2%		26	5.0%		
	187 418 157 0 40 40 7	187 27.6% 418 61.7% 157 23.2% 0 0.0% 40 5.9% 40 5.9% 7 1.0% 2 0.3%	187 27.6% 418 61.7% 157 23.2% 0 0.0% 40 5.9% 40 5.9% 7 1.0% 2 0.3%	187 27.6% 117 418 61.7% 189 157 23.2% 101 0 0.0% 0 40 5.9% 44 40 5.9% 20 7 1.0% 1 2 0.3% 0	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 2 0.3% 0 0.0%	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 2 0.3% 0 0.0%	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 32.1% 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 56.4% 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 28.6% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 0.1% 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 11.4% 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 0.0% 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 0.0% 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0%	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 32.1% 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 56.4% 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 28.6% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 0.1% 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 11.4% 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 0.0% 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 0.0% 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0%	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 32.1% 258 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 56.4% 424 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 28.6% 212 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 0.1% 0 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 11.4% 97 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 0.0% 0 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 0.0% 4 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 0	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 32.1% 258 33.1% 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 56.4% 424 55.1% 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 28.6% 212 27.6% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 0.1% 0 0.0% 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 11.4% 97 12.6% 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 0.0% 4 0.5% 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 0 0.0%	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 32.1% 258 33.1% 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 56.4% 424 55.1% 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 28.6% 212 27.6% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 0.1% 0 0.0% 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 11.4% 97 12.6% 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 0.0% 4 0.5% 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 0 0.0%	187 27.6% 117 30.7% 248 32.1% 258 33.1% 187 418 61.7% 189 49.6% 429 56.4% 424 55.1% 275 157 23.2% 101 26.5% 218 28.6% 212 27.6% 150 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 1 0.1% 0 0.0% 0 40 5.9% 44 11.6% 87 11.4% 97 12.6% 73 40 5.9% 20 5.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 0 7 1.0% 1 0.3% 0 0.0% 4 0.5% 1 2 0.3% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 0		

Placement instability trends

- Primary reason removal
 - 1/3 youth not due to abuse/neglect and this trend is increasing
- Initial placement
 - 1/4 go into residential/group
 - 1/2 family foster care
 - Few placed with relatives (13.9%)

Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months Primary Removal Type



What we learned

Children/youth with 3+ placement moves compared to those with <3 moves

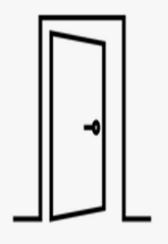
Older youth (13-18)
with higher level of disabilities/needs & histories of running away

Very few intial placements with with relatives

Non abuse/neglect
(FINA) identified more
often as primary reason
for removal

Increasing trends of initial placement in residential/group homes

Understanding primary reason for removal more in-depth



Abuse/neglect categories

Physical abuse

Physical neglect

Labor trafficking

Sex trafficking

Sexual abuse

Emotional abuse

Abandonment

Lack of supervision

Medical neglect

Educational neglect

Substance affected infant

Non-abuse/neglect categories: FINA*

Alcohol abuse child

Alcohol abuse parent

Drug abuse child

Drug abuse parent

Child behavior problems

Caregiver inability cope

Infant positive substances

Death parent

Incarceration parent

Meth use/manufacturing

Parent opioid use

Relinquishment

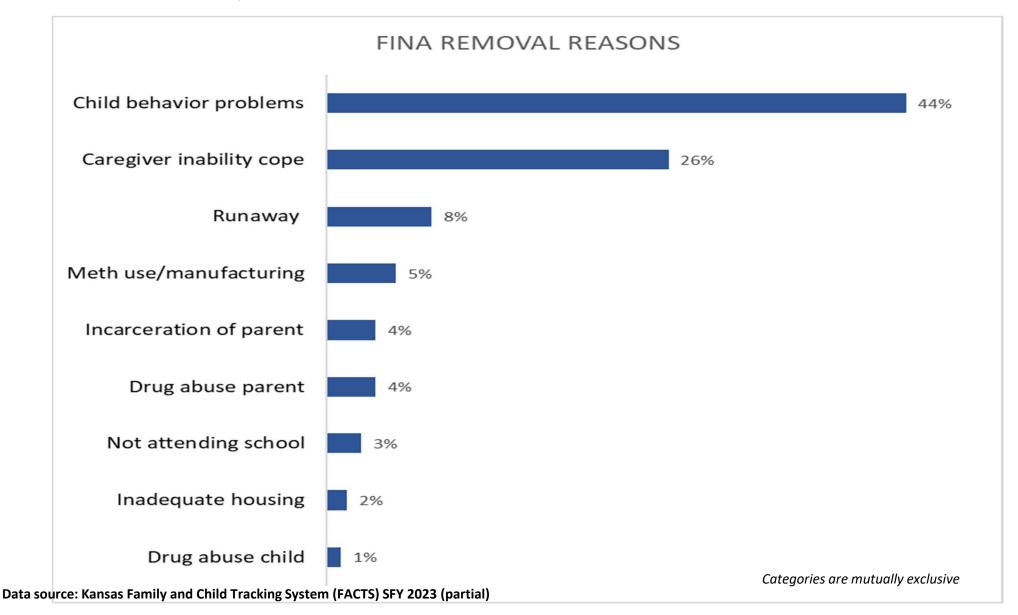
Inadequate housing

Runaway

Not attending school

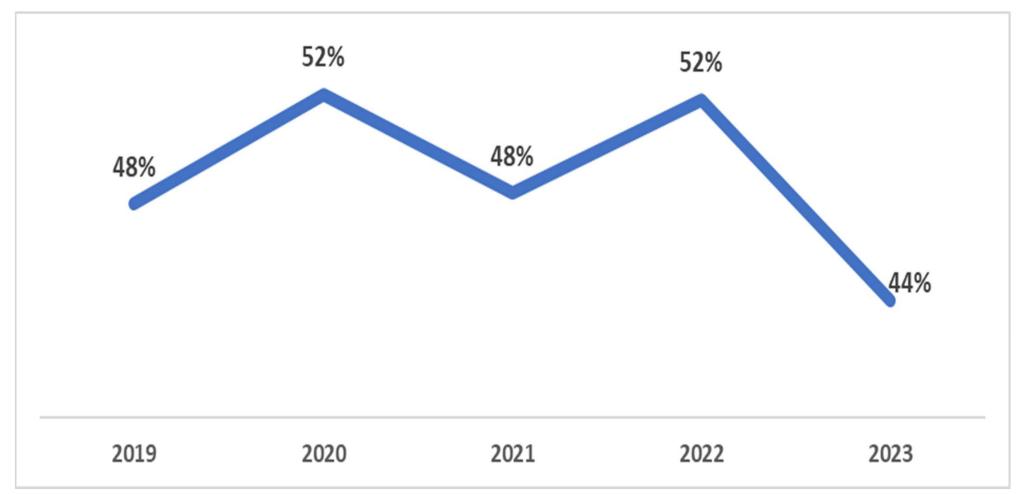
*FINA: Family in Need of Assessment

Primary reason for removal: Non-abuse/neglect (FINA) categories, SFY23 Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months



Primary reason for removal: Non-abuse/neglect (FINA) top 2 categories Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months

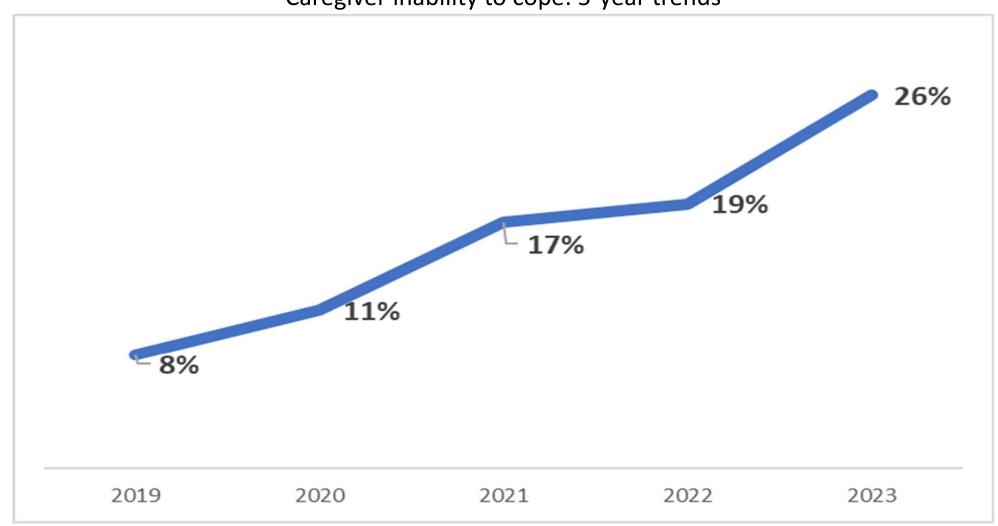
Child behavior problems: 5-year trends



Data source: Kansas Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS) SFY 2023 (partial)

Primary reason for removal: Non-abuse/neglect (FINA) top 2 categories Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months

Caregiver inability to cope: 5-year trends



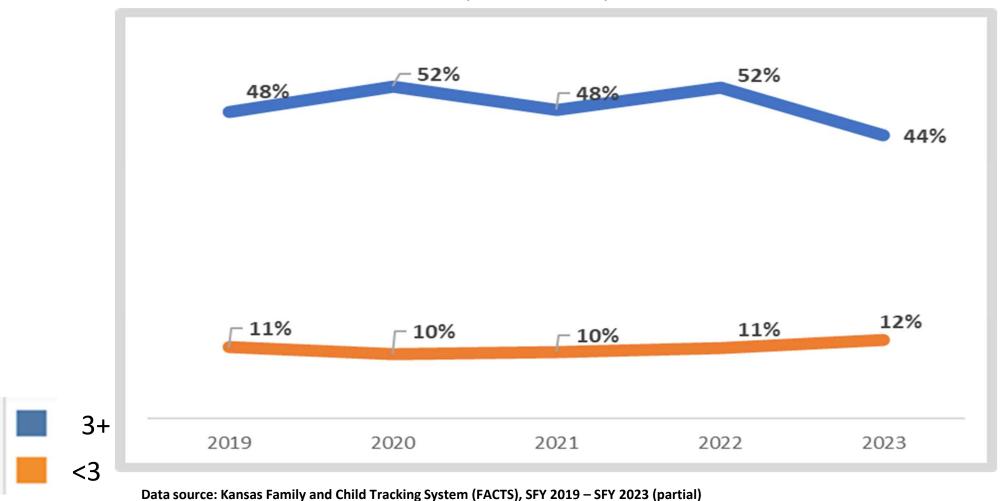
Data source: Kansas Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS) SFY 2023 (partial)

Primary reason for removal: Non-abuse/neglect (FINA) top category

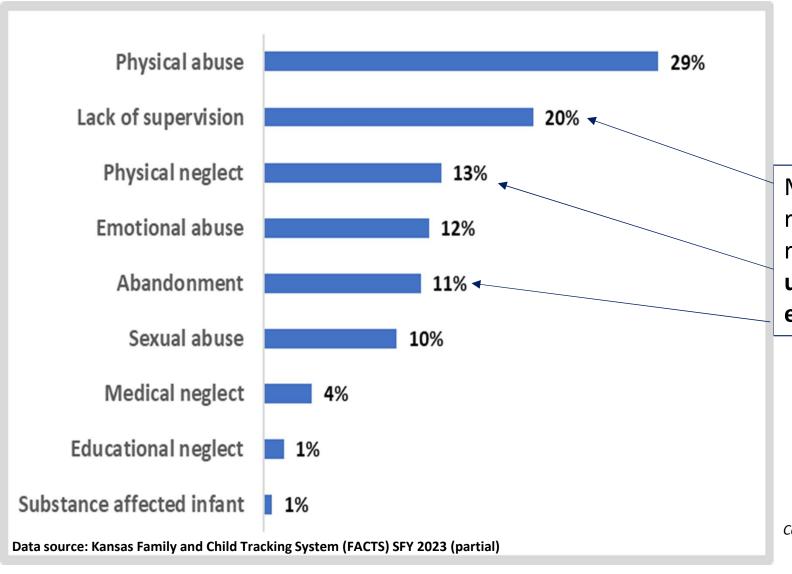
How do children/youth 3+ moves compare to those <3 moves in 12 months?

Primary reason for removal: Non-abuse/neglect (FINA) top 3 categories Children/youth 3+ moves compared to those <3 moves in 12 months

Child behavior problems: 5-year trends



Primary reason for removal: Abuse/neglect categories, SFY23 Children/youth 3+ moves in 12 months

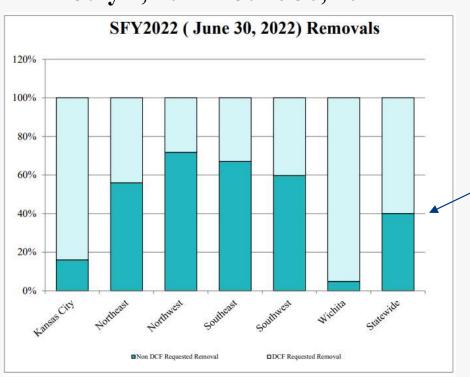


Most of these removal reasons can be reduced through strong upstream prevention efforts

Categories are mutually exclusive

Request for Removals: DCF and Non-DCF

Request for Removals: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



During July to June, 40% of all statewide removal requests were from non-DCF staff

Connecting Causal Links into a Pathway of Change...

LFR Workgroup Members Started Working on These

Education



Law enforcement, legislature, judicial system, community partners, school systems, and DCF and frontline staff understand:

- Role and limitations of foster care
- Role and availability of community-based services to support families (children and youth in the home, caregivers, etc.)
- Each other's respective roles and limitations
- Culturally appropriate responses for families and children in need of supports

Practice



DCF and judicial system partners use foster care as temporary solution

DCF, law enforcement, community partners, partner agencies, etc. are prepared to assist with alternate options to foster care (including outreach to possible kinship caregivers) and partner together

DCF, judicial systems, and community providers intentionally partner, communicate, and collaborate to meet families' needs

Training for foster parents, facilities, CMP, DCF staff to build their set of tools and skills to assess and help address the needs of youth.

Policy



Mental health referral requirements are shortened or eliminated

Providers are incentivized to get certified in how to treat teenagers

Rates for PRTFs are increased

Placement providers cannot refuse children

Resources & Access



Appropriate SUD treatment for parents and youth are accessible

Trauma-based, statewide truancy prevention programs, supported by the courts, are accessible to children at-risk of truancy

Mental health therapeutic services for youth with high acuity needs are available and accessible

Resources to address basic needs, mental health needs, and parenting support needs are available to families and kinship caregivers

Adequate discharge planning and supports are available from PRTFs

Effective collaboration between DCF/DCF Grantees and stakeholders

Takeaways on the Problem of Placement Instability

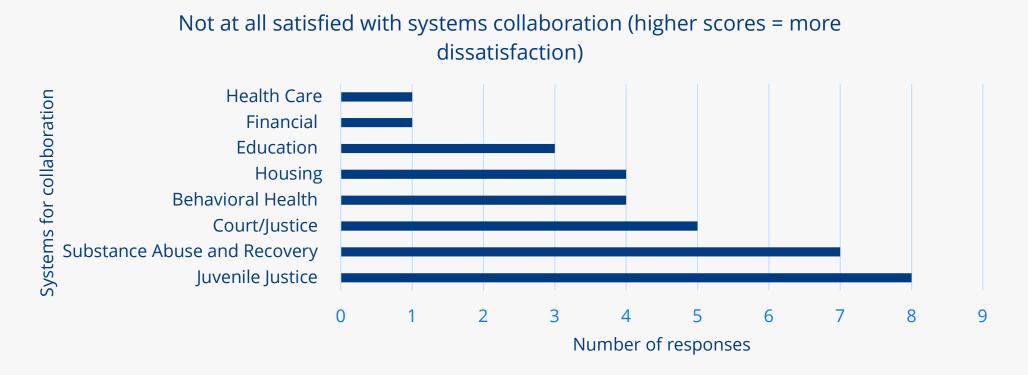
Complex problem that starts further upstream in the child welfare continuum

Solutions will involve multiple systems due to community-level and child welfare front door root causes

Opportunity to leverage prevention efforts to improve placement stability

KS Executive Leadership is needed to make a crosssystem solution work. Child welfare cannot solve this problem alone!

How satisfied are you with current collaboration efforts?



INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS: POLICY & FISCAL CHANGES IN ONE IMPACT THE OTHERS

Family First Prevention Services Act:

"Certification preventing increases to the juvenile justice population:
Title IV-E agencies must certify they will not enact policies that will significantly increase the state/tribe's juvenile justice population in response to the restrictions on title
IV-E FCMPs for CCIs in section 472(k) of the Act (limitation on FFP for a child placed in a CCI) (section 471(a)(37) of the A". PI 18-07 p.7



https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi1807.pdf

EXAMPLE OF LEGILATION

WASHINGTON STATE: H.B. 1227: Keeping Families Together

The Keeping Families Together Act, which goes into effect on July 1, 2023, is designed to protect the rights of Washington families when they face allegations of child abuse or neglect.

To decrease the number of children in foster care and reduce racial bias, the law introduces significant changes to the legal standards for removal of a child and placement in out-of-home care

Importantly, the law clarifies that "family poverty, isolation, single parenthood, age of the parent, crowded or inadequate housing, substance abuse, prenatal drug or alcohol exposure, mental illness, disability or special needs of the parent or child, or nonconforming social behavior does not by itself constitute imminent physical harm." It also **requires the Court** to determine whether prevention services would obviate the need for removal.

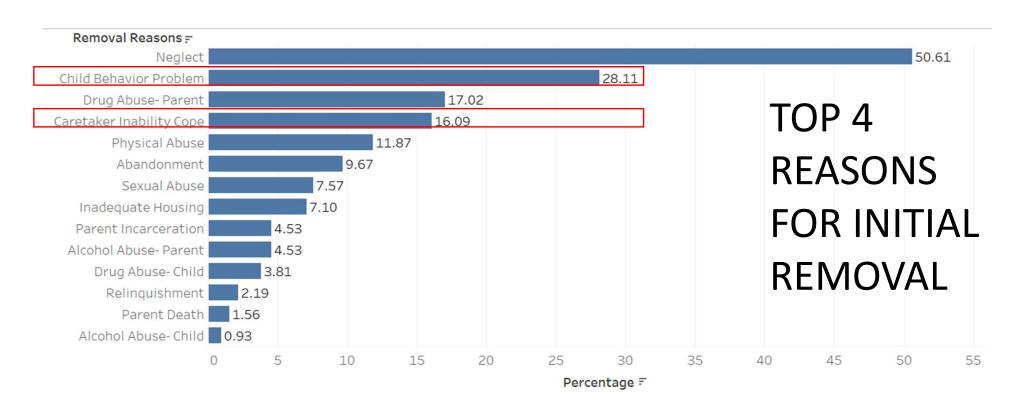
REDUCING YOUTH ENTERING CARE: PREVENTION-FOCUSED SOLUTION: TITLE IV-E & MEDICAID

Leanne Heaton, PhD, LCSW Arya Harison, MPA



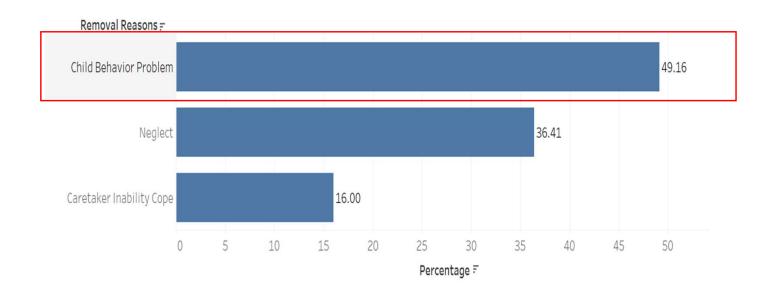
NATIONAL DATA REASON FOR INITIAL REMOVAL: YOUTH ENTERING CARE AT AGES 13 – 17

REASON FOR INITIAL REMOVAL: YOUTH AGES 13-17 CURRENLY IN ANY FOSTER CARE SETTING



Data source: AFCARS FFY 2015-2020

REASON FOR INITIAL REMOVAL: YOUTH AGES 13-17 ENTERING CARE CURRENLY PLACED IN CONGREGATE CARE



TOP 3
REASONS
FOR INITIAL
REMOVAL

Data source: AFCARS FFY 2015-2020

IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH AGES 13 TO 17

- Many of these youth have contact with other service sectors such as behavioral health, juvenile justice, and the courts prior to foster care entry.
- These systems, however, often fail to provide the necessary prevention services and turn to the child welfare foster care system to provide therapeutic services.
- The foster care system is not designed as a therapeutic service system to support complex mental health and behavioral issues in adolescents.
- Once in care youth lack appropriate placements, are warehoused in congregate care settings, experience placement instability, and age of system unprepared for successful transition to adulthood.

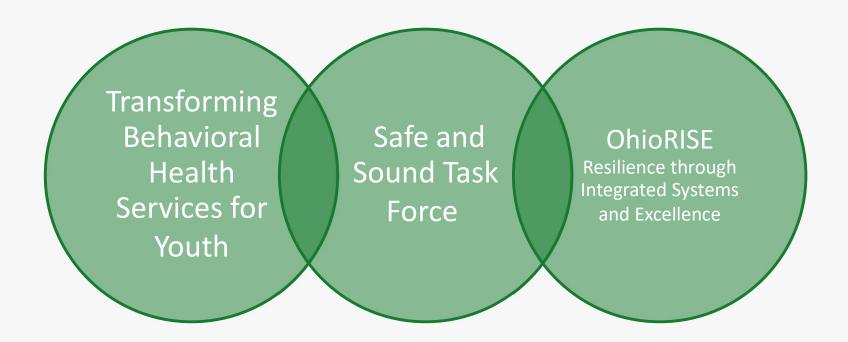
PREVENTION-FOCUSED POLICY SOLUTION FOR CONGREGATE CARE

Upstream prevention efforts through Medicaid and Title IV-E are needed to support youth with complex behavioral health needs in their families and communities

- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Familias Unidas
- Strong African American Families (SAAF)

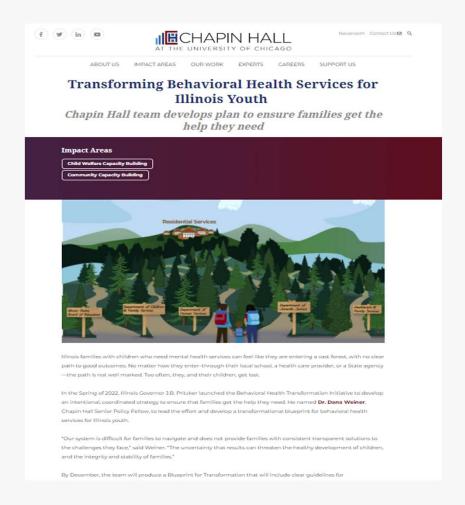


All these strategies were initiated by governors and executive leaders





https://www.wbez.org/stories/illinois-governor-lays-out-a-roadmap-for-a-transformed-youth-mental-health-care-system/72303e60-9d51-4d23-bec6-370b1029a48a



Transforming Behavioral Health Services for Illinois youth: https://www.chapinhall.org/project/transforming-behavioral-health-services-for-illinois-youth/
https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Blueprint For Transformation Feb 2023.pdf

Governor Youngkin Announces Safe and Sound Task Force to End Practice of Kids Sleeping in Local Government Offices

RICHMOND, VA – Governor Youngkin announced today that he has launched an initiative aimed at creating safe housing placements for children in foster care. As today marks the start of Child Abuse Prevention month, the "Safe and Sound Task Force" will bring together government agencies, the Virginia League of Social Services Executives and other community partners to end the practice of children sleeping in local departments of social services, hotels and emergency rooms.

"It is unacceptable that last year over 150 children in foster care spent the night in places that just simply are not meant for kids. When this challenge came to our attention, my administration knew we had to act swiftly to ensure that every child has a safe place to belong," **stated Governor Youngkin.** "Beyond the immediate need, we hope Virginians from all walks of life will step up to help children in foster care."

Over a six-month period in 2021 (February 1-July 30, 2021), 163 children were displaced for at least one night in unsuitable sleeping arrangements. This phenomenon occurs because of a dire shortage of foster homes, kinship family placements, and beds in group homes and residential treatment centers.

These youth ranged in age from 7-17 years. Social workers or law enforcement personnel stay overnight with children who are displaced, creating an undue burden on already overworked staff. This greatly exacerbates the existing workforce shortages in the child welfare and criminal justice systems.

Janet Kelly will serve as the Special Advisor for Children's Issues and convene state and local government agencies, residential facilities and hospitals, and community partners to collaboratively seek immediate solutions to this crisis. The Task Force objectives include finding safe placements for kids who are currently displaced, ensuring a reservoir of safe placements for kids who may need them in the future, and eventually making recommendations that go upstream to address policy and systemic changes.

The Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia League of Social Services Executives raised this ongoing issue in July 2021, and since then Eric Reynolds, the Director of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, and several state agencies have worked to identify some of the root causes.

"While there are a number of issues that created this untenable situation, it will require collaboration and creativity at both the local and state levels to solve it. We are grateful to every child welfare worker who has worked to the best of their ability to ensure these kids are safe and we look forward to working together with them to end this practice," stated Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Littel. "I appreciate how

Safe and Sound Task Force in Virginia: https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2022/april/name-930755-en.html

OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence)

As a part Ohio Medicaid's effort to launch the next generation of Medicaid, ODM has launched OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence), a specialized managed care program for youth with complex behavioral health and multisystem needs.

A Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment is needed to help determine a child or youth's eligibility for OhioRISE. CLICK HERE for information about how to obtain a referral for a CANS assessment.



https://managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov/managed-care/ohiorise/ohiorise

WHAT WE NEED

The LFR members asked for your help and support to elevate and implement a cross-system solution

Where do you see yourselves in the solution?

How can the Center assist in pulling together resources and/or peer-to-peer connections?

How can we assist in educating others?

Stay Connected With Us!

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Visit the Collaborative website











Thank You!