Well-Being of CT’s Children and Families

An Operating Frame for Practice and Policy within the Department of Children and Families

Prepared for:
Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Council (JJPOC) July 2023
“Partnering with communities and empowering families to raise resilient children who thrive.”
Tenets of Child Well-Being

Environmental Supports

Social Functioning

Physical Health and Development

Emotional/Behavioral Functioning

Cognitive Functioning

Personal Characteristics

Citation: Samuels, 2012
Intake

24/7 Centralized Call Center: CARELINE

- Live screeners assess Ab/Neg Reports
- Accept/Non-Accept Determination

14 AREA OFFICES

Intake Social Workers:
- Investigation or
- Family Assessment Response (FAR)

SIU and EPIU

BGCs & Investigations:
- DCF employees,
- School Personnel
- Childcare providers

Up to 33 business days to complete Intake with dispositions of:
- Sub close,
- Sub transfer,
- Unsub
- Unsub transfer,
- CSF Referral

Total # of Calls, Reports
% Accepted Reports (18-month look)
Abuse and Neglect Pathways
Connecticut Safety Practice Model

5 SUPPLEMENTAL PRACTICE GUIDES

0-5 Population Development Disabilities

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Substance Use Mental Health

ADULT protective capacity
BEHAVIORS that are harmful
CHILD vulnerabilities
DANGEROUS conditions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CW Pathway Steps</th>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino, Any Race</th>
<th>Black/Af Am, Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Other Race, Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>White, Non-Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Child Population (2020 US Census)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Reported, FAR (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Reported, Investigation (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Substantiated as Victims (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in Cases Opened for Services (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Entering DCF Care (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In DCF Care (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in Congregate Care (SFY22)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who is DCF serving ...

DISPARITY INDEX by Race & Ethnicity
Number of Children* in DCF Placement On First Day of Each Month
January 2004 - March 2023

CT DCF Strategic Planning, Office of Data Reporting and Evaluation
Data as of April 12, 2023

- 3029
- 52.8%
- From 1/04 to 3/23

January 2004:
Final Juan F. Exit Plan & Outcome Measures begins; re-negotiated effective July 2004
February 2004:
Regions decentralized to local Area Office structure

September 2008:
CFSR Round 2 conducted

January 2011:
Previous administration takes office

January 2017:
Uptick in Opioid Crisis in CT

June 2013:
Racial Justice Added to Agency Cross-Cutting Themes

July ‘18:
FAR Pilot begins

March 2020:
COVID-19 - DCF begins use of majority virtual visits. Courts only hear emergencies Mar 16 - June 29, all re-opened by Sept 2020

January - June ‘22
The “Silver Tsunami”

January 2022:
Online Mandated Reporter Portal

March 2023:
Children In Care Down -52.8% Since Jan 2004 -32.7% Since Jan 2019

* Includes all children <16 years old in open DCF placements on the first day of each month; Excludes Committed Delinquent, Voluntary, Probate and Interstate Compact. On any given day DCF is responsible for an average of 5.7% additional children who have left open placement, but for which DCF is still legally responsible.
Projected
## Number and % of “Removal Types”
March 2021 through June 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLUNTARY</th>
<th>COURT ORDERED</th>
<th>ADMIN 96-HOUR HOLD</th>
<th>90 DAY VOL PLCMT AGRMNT</th>
<th>UNDETERMINED</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>1647</td>
<td>1273</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>3042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Age at Removal
(March 2021 through June 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE 0-2</th>
<th>AGE 3-5</th>
<th>AGE 6-12</th>
<th>AGE 13-17</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1183</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>3040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Safety**

(Federal) Maltreatment in Foster Care
Of all children in foster care during a 12-month target period, what is the rate of victimization per 100,000 days of foster care

**Time Period**
Calendar Year | Jan 1, 2016 - Dec 1, 2022
Statewide
None

![Bar chart showing Maltreatment in Foster Care rates from Dec 31, 2016 to Dec 31, 2022 with a CFSR Standard of 9.07. The rates are as follows:
- Dec 31, 2016: 5.0
- Dec 31, 2017: 6.0
- Dec 31, 2018: 5.5
- Dec 31, 2019: 5.0
- Dec 31, 2020: 2.0
- Dec 31, 2021: 6.0
- Dec 31, 2022: 6.2

The rates are below the CFSR Standard.
Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Across The CT Child Protection System SFY22: STATEWIDE

*Other Race includes: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, Multi-Racial, and Missing/Unknown/UTD

Data Run Date:
Statewide: 9/26/22

CALIFORNIA

‘We have no placement for them’: L.A. County still keeping troubled youths in hotel rooms…Los Angeles Times June 25, 2023

The burnout epidemic: High turnover in child welfare University of Hawaii News » Research » The burnout epidemic: High…June 22, 2023 UH News

HUNDREDS OF KIDS IN TEXAS FOSTER CARE WERE STILL SLEEPING IN HOTELS OR OTHER UNLICENSED PLACEMENTS LAST MONTH

The Imprint Youth & Family News ANNIE

POLK COUNTY

Heartland for Children in critical need of foster homes in Polk County……….Polk County Florida June 21, 2023

Grace Retreat in need of more foster care parents
The agency says they've seen more kids needing homes this past month…KGUN 9 on your side, Arizona June 22, 2023

Unplaced children sleeping on floor of Kentucky cabinet's Louisville office Andrew Wolfson Louisville Courier Journal

Effingham County needs foster parents Effingham Herald Effingham County, Georgia June 29, 2003

News Kansas programs aren't helping every runaway foster kid, so they land in jail cells KCUR | BY BLAISE MESA Published June 22, 2023 at 4:00 AM CDT and NPR in Kansas City

Unplaced children sleeping on floor of Kentucky cabinet's Louisville office Andrew Wolfson Louisville Courier Journal

Unplaced children sleeping on floor of Kentucky cabinet's Louisville office Andrew Wolfson Louisville Courier Journal

Kids housed in casino hotels? It's a workaround as U.S. sees decline in foster homes June 14, 2023 5:00 AM ET
demographics 1st DCF entry
children 14-17yrs old
*Jan 2022-July 2023

254 children entered via OTC
47 (19%) Foster Care
11 (4%) FFT/TFC
43 (17%) Kinship
20 (8%) Congregate Care
10 (2%) Kinship Care

126 (49%) Male
128 (551%) Female

Of the 254 children in Care:
77 (30%) Black
150 (59%) White
17 (7%) Multi-Race
10 (4%) Declined

A Qualitative Record Review of 59 of the 254 cases (23%):
19 (32%) of 59 youth committed to DCF via OTC -Il/Delinquency
21 (35%) of 59 youth committed to DCF via OTC due to Abuse/Neglect
17 (29%) of 59 youth committed to DCF in psychiatric facility or ED
2 (3%) of 59 OTC were due to undocumented unaccompanied minor status
**KEY RESULT**: If children are unsafe at home and need to be separated from their family, they will live with a relative or someone they know.

Core elements of Connecticut’s Caregiver Practice Model for Kin:

- Child and Family Considered Removal Teaming
- Kinship Firewall
- Diligent Search and Engagement of Kin
- Kinship Navigation Program
- Revised Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship
Disparity-Children in Congregate Care

Level of Disparity

SFY14 SFY15 SFY16 SFY17 SFY18 SFY19 SFY20 SFY21 SFY22

Hispanic/Latino, Any Race

Black/Af Am, Non-Hispanic

Other* Race, Non-Hispanic

White, Non-Hispanic

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Data Run Date: 9/26/22

https://www.thinkof-us.org/case-studies/away-from-home

demographics of youth in foster care

Of the 3,073 children in care:
- 1,268 are 13+ years old
- 727 are 13-18 years old
- 226 Kinship Care
- 129 Group Care
- 370 Foster Care
- 227 Therapeutic FC (FFT)
- 541 are > 18 years old (<24):
  - 330 (57%) Foster Care
  - 63 (12%) Group Care
  - 105 (29%) CHAP/Independent living
  - 10 (2%) Kinship Care
  - 171 (32%) Black
  - 160 (30%) Hispanic
  - 164 (31%) White
  - 46 (8%) *other

From FY20-FY23 48 of 82 youth transitioned from DCF to DDS early or on time. Early means that the youth was placed in a DDS home, however, DCF continues to be the lead and funds the placement until the youth turns 21.

*Other = AI, AAPI, multi-race or unk
DCF children in placement in a correctional setting
(7/18/23*point in time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>RACE/ETHNICITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 – 15: 2 (5.9%)</td>
<td>Hispanic: 10 (29.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 – 17: 10 (29.4%)</td>
<td>Black: 16 (47.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 19: 10 (29.4%)</td>
<td>Other: 2 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 22: 12 (35.3%)</td>
<td>White: 6 (17.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARS IN CARE</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1: 6 (17.6%)</td>
<td>Male 32 (94.1%)</td>
<td>Detention Centers: 7 (20.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 2: 4 (11.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Manson Correctional: 13 (38.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – 3: 3 (8.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other: 12 (41.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 4: 8 (23.5%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 – 5: 13 (38.2%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other contextual facts:
* There are 2 females in York CCI
* There are 11 kids with a length of stay >4yrs
* There have been 43 arrests in 7 months in group care
Well-Being

Total Number of Permanency Plans Approved 3579 FY22

Number of APPLA/OPPLA Plans Approved 697 FY22

Number of Independent Living Plans Approved 214 FY22

Number of Long-Term Foster Care Approved 417 FY22

Number of Other Approved 64
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Number of Scored Tests</th>
<th>Meets or exceeds (score of x=3 or 4)</th>
<th>Does Not meet or approaching Expectations (score of &lt;1 or 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSDE</td>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>220491</td>
<td>49.10%</td>
<td>50.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>83.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDE</td>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>219466</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The educational data is significantly limited in that it is only provided for children in out of home placements with specific legal statuses who are also under the age of 18.

- DCF does not currently receive truancy data from the CSDE.

- Since the pandemic, changes to attendance reporting policies lead to monthly attendance shared directly with DCF by CSDE. This raw data has been used to identify chronic absenteeism patterns. However, the reports are not a truly reliable data source to make long term assumptions.
Strengthening well-being by:

- Applying a trauma-informed lens
- Maintaining stable living environments
- Building a positive self-image
- Enhancing skills to manage emotions
- Providing appropriate structure
- Developing skills & competencies
- Sustaining positive relationships

Strengthening well-being by:

Strengthening well-being of specialty populations of adolescents & efforts underway

https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Adolescent-Services/VITAL/VITAL-POLICIES
QUESTIONS?

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