DCF Overview

DCF MISSION

Working together with families and communities for children who are healthy, safe, smart and strong.

DCF MANDATES

- Child Welfare
- Children’s Behavioral Health
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Prevention

SEVEN CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

- implementing strength-based family policy, practice and programs trauma-informed practice
- applying the neuroscience of early childhood and adolescent development
- expanding trauma-informed practice and culture Improvements
- addressing racial inequities in all areas of our practice
- building new community and agency partnerships
- improving leadership, management, supervision and accountability
- becoming a learning organization
DCF Regions
Children and Families Served

- At any point in time, the Department serves approximately 26,000 children and 11,500 families across its programs and mandated areas of service.
- The DCF Careline received 90,492 calls in 2015: 50,484 were reports of child abuse or neglect, and 29,957 reports received an investigation or Family Assessment Response (FAR). Of the investigations, 94.2% were commenced in a timely manner and 87.6% were completed within 45 days.
- Approximately 14,700 cases are open on a given day.
- Approximately 2,500 investigations and 2,000 family assessments are underway at a given point in time.
- Approximately 4,000 children are in some type of placement on any given day.
- Approximately, 308 children (as of 1/20/2016) are currently receiving voluntary services and are not committed to the Department. About 292 of these children are receiving services at home, with the balance receiving services out of the home.
- During 2015, there were 519 reunifications, guardianships were transferred for 284 children and adoptions were finalized for 531 children.
- The % of children overall placed with relatives and fictive kin is 40.4% in January 2016 compared to 17.3% in January 2011.
- Post Secondary Education (2 or 4 year colleges or other full time school) – in FY 15 financial support was provided for 688 Foster Care Youths and an additional 181 Adopted Youths up to age 23.
The Careline: Reports of Abuse and Neglect

- In 2015, 972 allegations of physical and sexual abuse were substantiated as were 11,330 allegations of physical, emotional, educational and/or medical neglect.
- Approximately 80% of reports come from mandated reporters - CGS § 17a-101(b) defines mandated reporters.
- DCF has seen a steady increase in the number of calls from mandated reporters as a result of:
  - Statutory expansion of mandated reporter definition
  - On-line training available to mandated reporters
  - Increased penalties for failure or delays in reporting
Children in Placement by Placement Type

- Foster Care
- Relative Care
- Independent Living
- Congregate Care
- Special Study
- Kinship Care
Increasing Family-Based Placements

- The Department’s goal is to serve 90% of children in community-based settings.
Children in Congregate Care: Age Group & Out-of-State
Projections of Children in Placement by Placement Type
Quality Assurance

- DCF’s QA/CQI approach is based upon the Federal guidance (IM 12-07), issued in August 2012: **5 Essential Components**
  - Administrative structure to oversee effective CQI system functioning
  - Quality data collection
  - Method for conducting ongoing case reviews
  - Process for the analysis and dissemination of quality data on all performance measures
  - Process for providing feedback to stakeholders and decision makers and as needed, adjusting State programs and process.

- An external evaluation by the Annie E. Casey Child Welfare Strategy group in May 2013 found that DCF was “poised for self-evaluation.” This is the second highest level within their framework

- The Department has used their Administrative Case Review (case planning assessment) as the cornerstone of their CQI/QA approach. The DCF OACR engages in over 13,000 reviews a year. Case plans are reviewed and rated using a standard tool that looks at safety, permanency and wellbeing. Data reports are generated from these reviews (e.g., Case Practice, Needs Assessment, Well-Being)
Data + QA/CQI: Integrated Performance Management

- Cross Cutting Themes
- Practice Model
- LAS, LAMM + Mentoring
- Racial Justice Workgroup
- Administrative Case Reviews
- Special Reviews
- Juan F. Data
- DCF Dashboard Development
- CT Open Data Portal
- Legislative Reports
- Kids Report Card

SARA Meetings
Foster Care Study
Exceptional Planning
Investigation + FAR Rev
Careline Reviews
Kinscherff CJTS Report
PDOC Curriculum/Training
PDOC Data Training
POS K RBA Report Cards
Service Survey Pilot
Tier Classifications Sys Wrkgrps
SDM workgroup
ACR Safe Sleep Practice Rev
Quality Assurance: Select Current Activities

- Careline Qualitative Reviews: FARs + Non-Accepts
- Area Office Investigations + FAR Qualitative Reviews
- Administrative Case Review Process + Exceptional Case Planning

*All three of the above reviews include some form of assessment of the timeliness and completeness of the SDM tool*

- Performance Expectations and Operational Strategies
- RBA based Contract Management and Oversight
# 2016 QA Enhancements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAINING</th>
<th>DATA + EVALUATION</th>
<th>CONSULTATION + PARTNERSHIPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• QA+ Data for New Managers</td>
<td>• CFRS – CCRS</td>
<td>• Center for State Capacity Building (Federal contractor)</td>
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<td>• QA through a Racial Justice Lens</td>
<td>• DCF Data Connect</td>
<td>• Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback</td>
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<td>• DCF Data Leadership Academy – based on NM STEP curriculum</td>
<td>• CT Data Portal Additions</td>
<td>• NM Safety + Success</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• New ROM system</td>
<td>• CRC regarding SDM enhancements and QA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• New Dashboards (JJ, ESI + Case flow)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Data Governance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Contracted Services Tier Classification System</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• IRB Lean Management</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FAR Eval Next Steps</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Research Agenda</td>
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DCF Data Connect

CT Open Data Portal
Kids Report Card
DCF Reports + Data
DCF Studies + Evaluations
Performance Improvement Center Data
Chapin Hall
Juan F. Reports
Federal Reports
Statewide Provider Meetings
Plans
Other Reports
Data Requests
Alphabetical Listing
Family Assessment Response (FAR)

- FAR was implemented in March 2012.
- As of April 2015, a total of 4,532 unique families were served by Community Supports for Families (CSF) program.
- Mean age of children is 7.84 years (range 0 - 17).
- 37.6% of the children served in CSF were ages 0-5.
- Racial breakdown of CSF participants:
  - Black/African American - 17%;
  - White - 41%;
  - Hispanic/Latino - 35%;
  - Other - 6.5%

Data Source: Evaluation from the Performance Improvement Center, UConn School of Social Work, August 2015
FAR + Investigations Comparative Data

### FOR REPORTS WITH ALLEGED VICTIMS AGES 0 - 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Invest.</th>
<th>FAR</th>
<th>Invest.</th>
<th>FAR</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Accepted Reports 4/1/12 - 6/30/15</td>
<td>15855</td>
<td>7264</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>23119</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports Responses Completed On Time</td>
<td>13861</td>
<td>6367</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>20228</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports Resulting in Case Opening</td>
<td>5188</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>5489</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports with Alleged Victims in Repeat Report in Same Case Within 6 Months</td>
<td>2741</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>3991</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports with Alleged Victims with Substantiation in Same Case Within 6 Months</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>1396</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td>Reports with an Alleged Victim that Entered DCF Placement Within 6 Months</td>
<td>1727</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td>8%</td>
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Current data suggests that CT FAR cases, including those that involve children under age 3, have lower re-referral and repeat maltreatment percentages than traditional CT CPS cases.
DCF Racial Justice Pathway Data

Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Across The CT Child Protection System SFY15: STATEWIDE

- Non-Hispanic, White Only
- Non-Hispanic, Other* Race Only
- Non-Hispanic, Black/Al Am Only
- Hispanic/Latino, Any Race

Data Run Date:
Statewide: 9/10/15

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

Reason for CSF Discharge by Child Race*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Met TX Goals</th>
<th>Family Discontinued</th>
<th>Agency Discontinued</th>
<th>New DCF Report Received</th>
<th>Client/Family Moved</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>73.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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</table>
FAR Racial Justice Considerations, cont.

CSF Survival Time to First Subsequent Report by Caregiver Race/Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic Blacks are 15% less likely to have a subsequent report than Non-Hispanic Whites.
- After adjusting for race/ethnicity, the survival time to an investigation subsequent report between Region 5 & 3 becomes non-significant.
Early Childhood Initiatives

SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN
- DCF and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) kicked off Safe Sleep Campaign with other partners on February 2, 2016
- Materials the materials will be offered to hospitals to assist with their implementation of PA 15-39, An Act Concerning Infant Safe Sleep Practices.
- Materials to be distributed to home visiting programs, early child care providers, maternal health clinics, and other community partners.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTICE GUIDE
- DCF supports healthy relationships, promotes safe and healthy environments and assures that the emotional and social needs of children aged 0-5 are met.
- This provides a framework to help staff in their work with families providing care to infants, toddlers and preschoolers involved with the Department.
- Implementation of the guide is currently underway through our Early Childhood Community of Practice.
Considered Removal Child and Family Team Meetings

- Implemented in February 2013
- DCF staff are required to hold a child and family team meeting when staff are considering the removal of a child
- Meetings are to occur prior to the removal or, where that is not possible consistent with child safety, within 48 hours of the removal
- Families are asked to invite anyone in their extended family or network of supports who might help resolve the underlying challenges

For CY 2014
- 2,611 child-specific meetings, 71% of which occurred PRIOR to a removal. 75% were either not removed or were placed with someone they know (kinship family)
- 47% of those placed were placed with relatives or kin

For CY 2015
- 2,743 child-specific meetings involving 1,627 families, 76% of the meetings occurred PRIOR to a removal. Of those, removal was recommended for 30% of the children.
- 72% of those placed were placed with relatives or kin
Children’s Behavioral Health Plan

October 2015 marked the first progress update of the CT Children’s Behavioral Health Plan following its initial submission in October 2014. The plan represented 50 plus activities underway across 6 state agencies supporting the seven thematic areas. Some of those include:

- Establishment of an Advisory Board with three key areas of focus; financial mapping, network analysis and data integration
- Implementation of CT’s first Care Management Entity
- Issuance of the CT Suicide Prevention Plan
- Statewide expansion of crisis stabilization/crisis respite resources
- Expansion of Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS) and the completion of 60 Memorandums of Agreement (MOA’s) between Local Education Agencies (LEA’s) and EMPS teams
- Expansion of Modular Approach to Therapy for Children (MATCH) to 6 additional clinics
- Implementation of Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) in 4 school systems
- Implementation of Adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT)
- Establishment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Unit at CT Behavioral Health Partnership
- Continued investment in Infant Mental Health training and implementation of Circle of Security Parenting
USD#2 – Virtual Academy

- Established pursuant to § 17a-37 (b) of the General Statutes
  The superintendent of the school district shall have the power to (1) establish and
  maintain within the Department of Children and Families such schools of different
  grades as he may from time to time require and deem necessary . . .

- Open communication with the State Department of Education

- Certified teacher location in the regions are:
  Region 1 (Bridgeport and Norwalk)
  Region 2 (New Haven)
  Region 3 (Middletown)
  Region 4 (Hartford)
  Region 5 (Waterbury)
  Region 6 (New Britain)

- Juvenile Justice / DCF Youth Focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>JJ Youth</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>36</td>
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Virtual Academy’s overarching goals are:

- Students will have access to Math and English remediation classes
- Students will have access to online core content area classes in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- Students will have access to elective courses, testing prep courses, and trade prep courses.
- Students who are on a diploma track will fulfill the state requirements for graduation.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the understanding and application of skills and concepts.
- Students will have a well developed Post Secondary Education Plan
- Students will have access to career exploration tools
Framework for the Plan to Close CJTS

- Develop recommendations to inform the closure of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School by July 1, 2018.
- Plan will be informed by national best practices, as well as an analysis of the population of youth currently served by CJTS and the youth who will be impacted by future age related statutory changes.
- Plan will present options for closure, including the development of new services and the re-purposing of existing programs to meet the needs of the population.

Plan Development Process
- Phase I – Developing the Foundation
- Phase II – Stakeholder Input
- Phase III – Plan Development
## Closure of CJTS: Timeline for Developing the Plan

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<tr>
<td>National Scan</td>
<td>Population Projections</td>
<td>External Stakeholder Input</td>
<td>DCF Staff Focus Groups</td>
<td>Draft Plan</td>
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**JAN 2016**
- National Scan

**FEB 2015**
- Population Projections

**MAR 2016**
- External Stakeholder Input

**APR 2016**
- DCF Staff Focus Groups

**MAY 2016**
- Draft Plan

**JUNE 2016**
- **JULY 2016**
- **AUG 2016**
- **SEPT 2016**
Governor Malloy’s Proposal Concerning Human Trafficking of Minors

■ **Strengthen Protections for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking**
  - amends the trafficking in persons statute to eliminate the requirement to prove more than one occurrence of sexual contact if the person trafficked in a minor under age 18.
  - makes patronizing a trafficked person an offense, if such person knew or reasonably should have known that the other person was under age of 18 and a victim of trafficking.

■ **Enhanced Protections for Victims**
  - includes the trafficking of a minor under the age of 18 as an offense that allows the court to issue a standing criminal protective order requiring convicted traffickers to stay away from victims. It also extends the time limitation for filing an application for compensation for victims of child sex trafficking if the victim makes the application within two years of reaching age 18.

■ **Provide More Tools to Investigators**
  - amends the enticing a minor statute to allow for a conviction if the person contacted is reasonably believed to be a minor under age 16.
  - requires that hotels and other accommodations maintain a computerized record-keeping system of all guests and transactions and maintain those records for not less than six months.
Questions