



CYF Overview

2016

**Allegheny County
Department of Human Services (DHS)
Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF)**



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

- ▶ Since 1997, The Department of Human Services (DHS) has been meeting the human service needs of county residents through an extensive range of:
 - * Information Exchange
 - * Prevention
 - * Early Intervention
 - * Case Management
 - * Crisis Intervention
 - * After-care Services



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

DHS at a Glance

- ▶ Provides services to about one quarter of the population of Allegheny County
- ▶ Delivers active case management services to more than one-third of those individuals
- ▶ Manages a total budget of nearly \$1 billion
- ▶ Taps into nearly 200 funding sources
- ▶ Funds more than 450 providers, for nearly 1,600 distinct services
- ▶ Employs more than 1,000 individuals



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We Work Together So That All Services Are

- ▶ High quality
- ▶ Empowering
- ▶ Individually Tailored
- ▶ Provided in a Culturally Competent and Accessible
Setting



Values and Principles for Integrated Practice

- ▶ **Service integration begins with the individuals and families that we serve.** Whenever possible, a team approach involving the consumer/family, system partners and natural supports will develop and monitor the plan for services.
- ▶ **Individuals and families have the capacity to identify their own strengths, needs and goals; create relationships and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.** Improving the health and well-being of individuals and families and increasing their self-reliance to the extent possible will be prioritized.
- ▶ **Consumers sustain their health and wellness with the support and assistance of their families and/or natural supports.** The engagement of families and natural supports will be emphasized and the intrusiveness of formal services minimized wherever possible.
- ▶ **Individualized and comprehensive services should be provided to consumers based on their unique needs.** A full continuum of services including tangible aid, when necessary, will be available to support those needs.
- ▶ **All services must be high-quality, accessible and aligned with consumer and family strengths, needs and goals.** Ongoing assessment of service quality and fidelity through the use of data, research and timely measurement of program efficacy and outcomes, will direct continuous quality improvements.
- ▶ **All communities and populations have unique cultural characteristics.** Services will be delivered in a manner that is inclusive, competent and respectful of these characteristics.



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Program Integration

- ▶ In 2012 a Universal DHS Practice Model was defined.
- ▶ Implicit in this model are long-term goals in the following five areas:
 - * Common Practices
 - * Community relations and participant engagement
 - * Financial and Operational efficiency
 - * Quality Assurance
 - * Structural Integration



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DHS Practice Model

- ▶ Common Practices and Models of Service across all program areas
 - * Common Assessments- use of Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) , Family Advocacy Support Tool (FAST) , Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA)
 - * Conferencing and Teaming
 - * Evidence Based Practices
 - * Credential for Strengths-based Family Workers
 - * Family Finding



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These common practices will eventually influence the way services are being provided by our provider agencies:

- Looking at it through the consumers eyes. Would you want multiple services pulling you in different directions, working different service plans?
- DHS is trying to assure that there is a common assessment, ONE single assessment for a consumer
- DHS is working to integrate our services through Family Team Conferencing



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

DHS Offices

- ▶ **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

- ▶ **SUPPORT OFFICES**

- * AIMS (Office of Administrative and Information Management Services)

- * OCR (Office of Community Relations)

- * DARE (Office of Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation)

PROGRAM OFFICES

- * AAA (Area Agency on Aging)

- * OBH (Office of Behavioral Health)

- * OCS (Office of Community Services)

- * **CYF (Office of Children, Youth, and Families)**

- * OID (Office of Intellectual Disability)

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Child Welfare in Pennsylvania

1. Overseen by the Department of Human Services (formerly DPW)
2. Bound by Federal and State Laws including the Child Protective Service Law (CPSL) and the Juvenile Act

Pennsylvania Mandates

- ▶ Child Protective Services Law (23 PACS § 6301-6385)
- ▶ Juvenile Act (23 PACS § 6301-6385)
- ▶ Pennsylvania Adoption Act (23 PACS § 2101-2910)
- ▶ Regulations governing county children and youth agencies & child protective services (*mostly Title 55*)
- ▶ Other guidance from Pennsylvania OCYF

(statutes listed above are often amended by new laws)

Mission and Guiding Principles

- To protect children from abuse and neglect
- To preserve families whenever possible
- To assure that children have permanent and safe homes

On any given day...

- ▶ 3,618 children (1,721 families) were receiving services as of April 1, 2016
- ▶ 1,285 of these children were in out of home placement
- ▶ CYF logged 13,152 calls of suspected child abuse/neglect in 2015
- ▶ Of those, 48% (6,303) were referred to community based services; 52% (6,849) were assessed for services
- ▶ Of the calls assessed for services, 22% (1,483) were accepted for child welfare services

Intake Departments and Functions

- ▶ Call Screening
- ▶ Child Protective Services
- ▶ General Protective Services
- ▶ Field Screening
- ▶ Time Limited
- ▶ Two possible service decisions:
 - ▶ Accept for Service
 - ▶ Case Closure



Conferencing and Teaming

The Business Process of Children, Youth and Families



Conferencing and Teaming

- ▶ Begins when a case is accepted for service by the agency
- ▶ Allows for the family to bring their supports to the planning table and to have an equal voice in the planning process
- ▶ Creates greater accountability for all team members engaged in the planning process

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Family Services Departments and Functions

- Five Regional Offices located throughout Allegheny County
- Family case assignments are based on residency
- Not time limited
- Maintains the case until case closure occurs

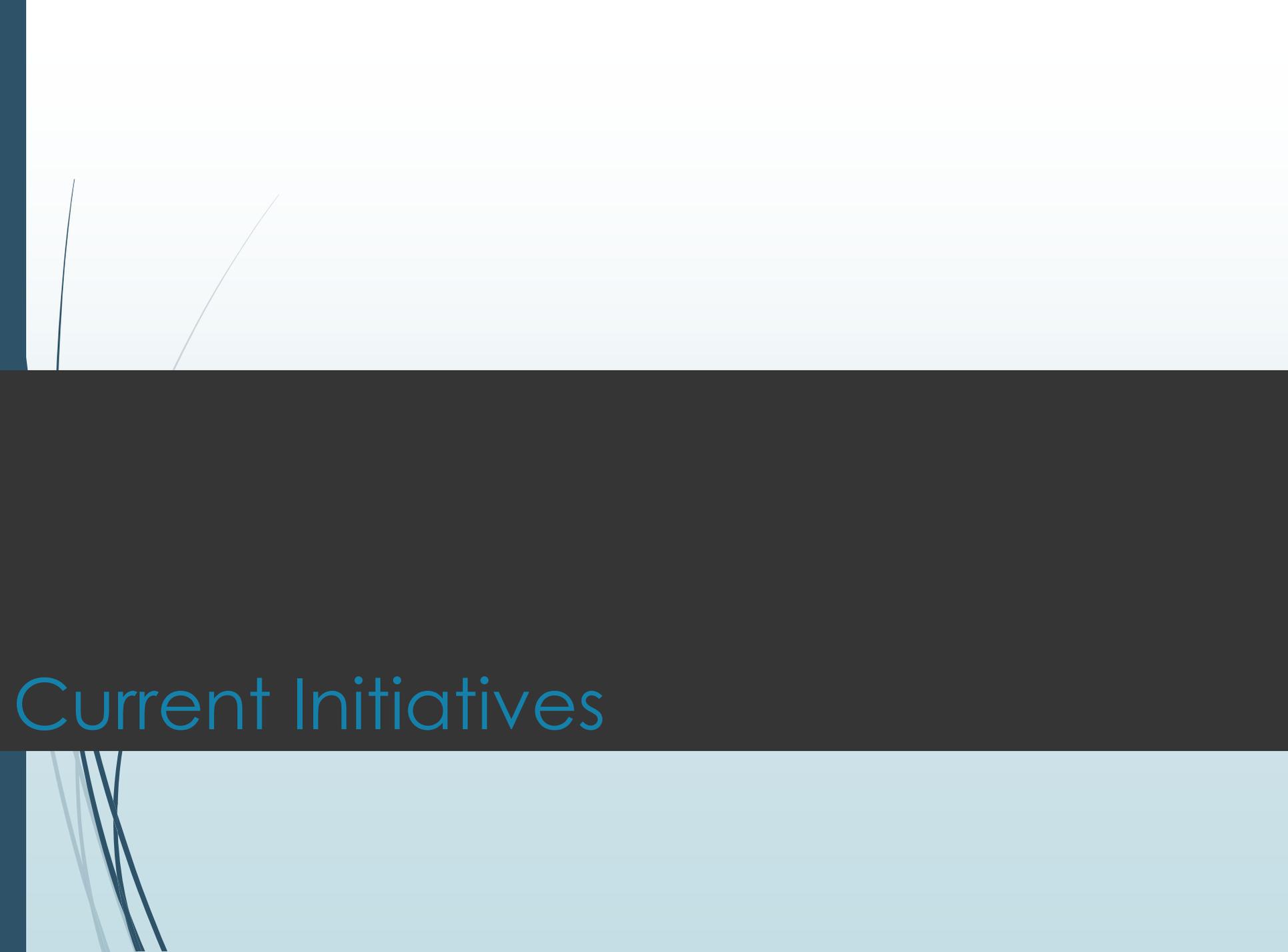


Out of Home Placement

- Can occur at any time throughout the life of a case
- Most placements occur because of unresolved safety threats
- Must meet the definition of a dependent child
- Without court permission, a child cannot be removed by a caseworker
- Kinship placements are preferable
- All caregivers must submit to background checks prior to a child being placed in their home

Dependency

- CYF must petition Juvenile Court for dependency under any of the ten grounds established by the Juvenile Act
- CYF must prove that both of the child's parents are unable to meet their needs
- Only a judge can adjudicate a child dependent
- Once dependency is granted, CYF can ask the court to direct services



Current Initiatives



Diligent Recruitment

- ▶ Congregate Care does not produce good outcomes for youth
- ▶ Efforts are currently underway for focused recruitment of foster homes for teens entering into placement through the **Foster Goodness Program**: <https://vimeo.com/138121633>
- ▶ Youth Speakers Bureau “Hear Me” campaign



Standardizing Engagement Strategies

- ▶ Prep/FAST
- ▶ UNCOPE Questions
- ▶ Allegheny LINK Home Visiting Program
 - ▶ The Children's Institute
- ▶ Homebuilders Program

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Efforts to Enhance Workforce Development

- ▶ Uniformity of Operations
- ▶ Predictive Analytics
- ▶ Fellows Leadership Development Program
- ▶ On the Frontline
 - ▶ Worker Decision Making



Questions/Discussion