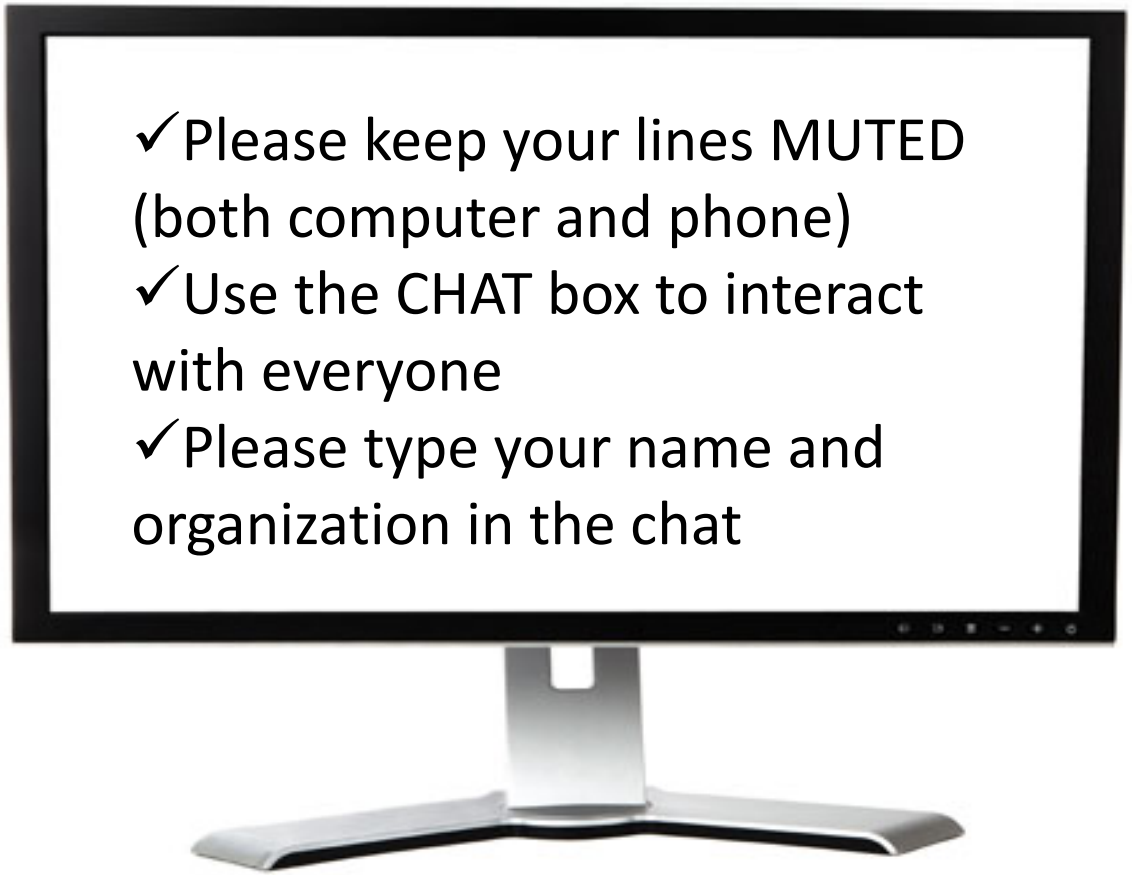

Virginia Department of Social Services
people helping people
CWAC
March 30, 2022

We're So Glad You're Here!



Who is Here?



CWAC September 22, 2021



- CWAC Charge
- Introduction of Nikki Cox
- Child Welfare Evolution
- Division and Legislative Update
- CFSR Update
- Parent Council
- Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Portal
- Plus/Delta

Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) Charge

CWAC: collaborative advisory group working together to achieve system outcomes.

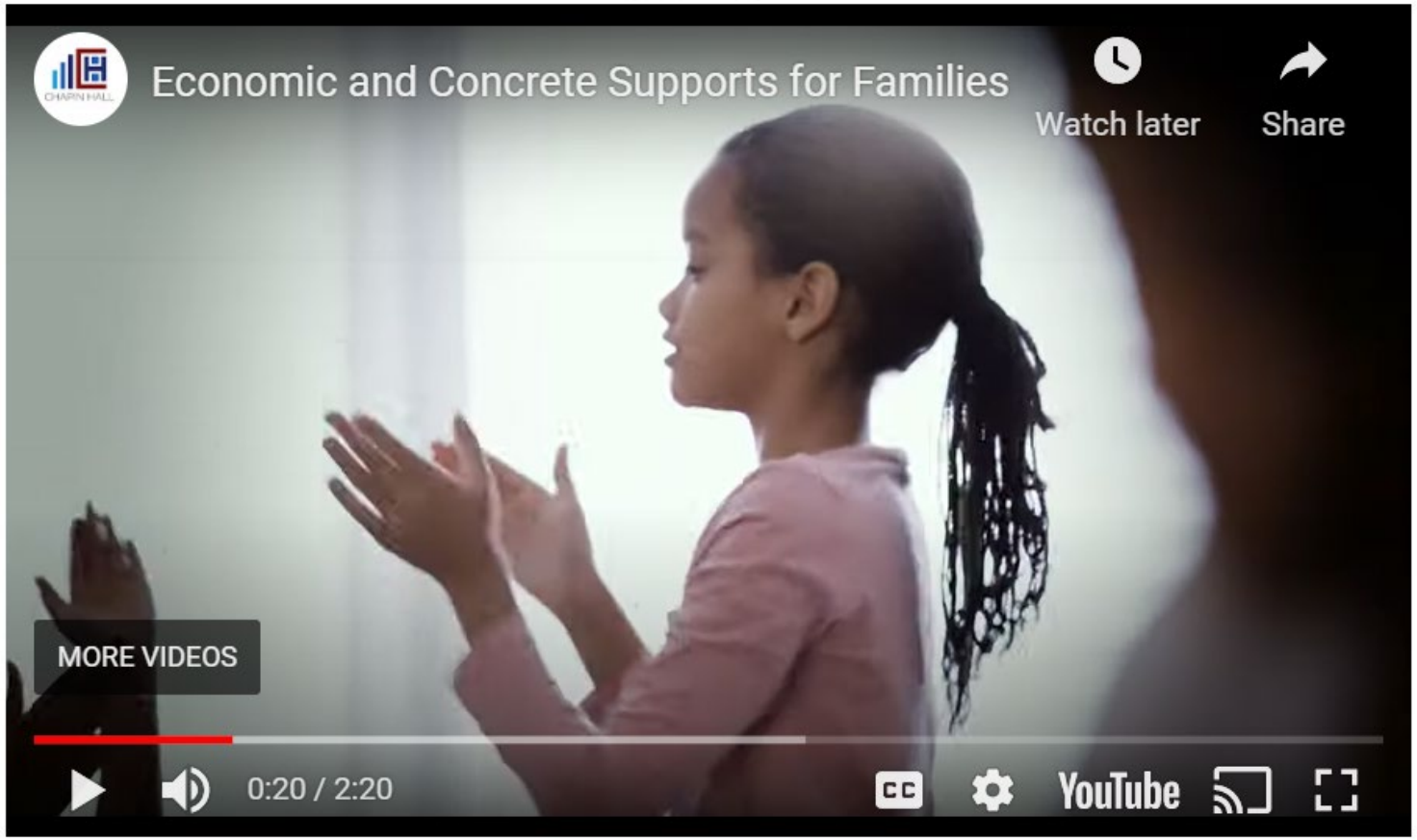
- Child welfare program, policy, training and practice
- CFSP, annual progress reports and other state plans
- Capacity Building and CQI
- Collaboration and Partnerships

Welcome Nikki Cox



Evolution

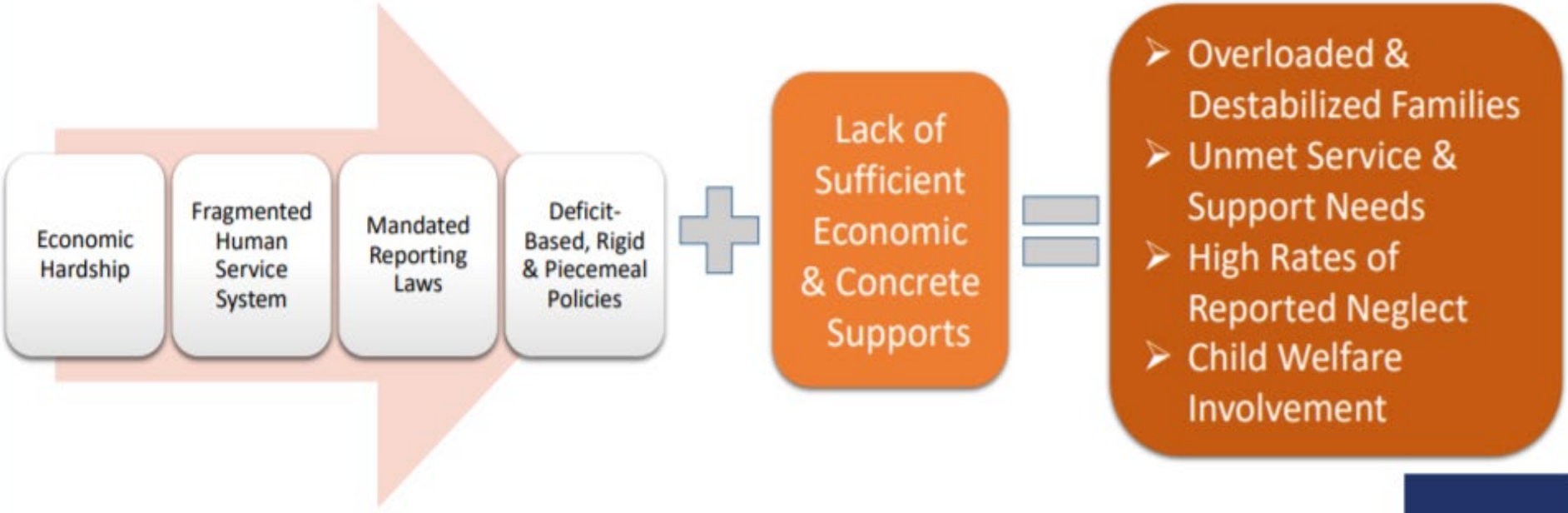
CHAPIN HALL
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



https://youtu.be/XgSS_Ogmgg8

Evolution

U.S Historical Policy & Choice Points



Evolution

60%+

of substantiated CPS responses nationally involve neglect only

Intersection of Poverty & Neglect:

Expands Understanding of Poverty Adjacent Neglect and the Need to Understand More

Evolution

Family Economic Insecurity & Child Welfare Involvement

Most reliable economic predictors of **child welfare involvement**

- Income loss
- Cumulative material hardship
- Housing hardship

(Conrad-Hiebner, 2020)

Strongest predictors of **investigated neglect reports**

- Food pantry use
- Cutting meals
- Inability to receive medical care for sick family member
- Difficulty paying rent
- Short duration of residence
- Utility shutoffs
- Public benefit receipt

(Slack, 2011)

Evolution

How Does Economic & Material Hardship Impact Parenting and Child Well-Being?

Family Stress Model



(Conger, 1994) (Gennetian, 2021) (Duncan, 2014) (Mistry, 2002)

Evolution

Effect of Material Hardship on Child Welfare Involvement

Experiencing any type of material hardship *(food, housing, utilities or medical)* is **strongly associated with an elevated risk** for CPS involvement

If families experience **at least one** material hardship

- **Likelihood of being investigated for neglect increases nearly 3x**
- **Likelihood of being investigated for physical abuse increases nearly 4x**

If families experience **multiple types** of material hardship

- **Greater likelihood of being involved in a CPS investigation**
- *(compared to families who experience no material hardship or a single type of material hardship)*

If families experience multiple types of hardship **after** experiencing no hardships

- **Likelihood of being involved in a CPS investigation increases 4x**
- **Likelihood of being investigated for physical abuse increases 7x**

(Yang, 2015)

Evolution

Economic Shocks: Transitory & Turbulent

Poverty exhibits a cyclical pattern—**families transition in and out of poverty over time**

- Almost 50% of those who become poor are out of poverty a year later
  - ***But more than 50% of those who previously left poverty will return to poverty within 5 years***
- Job losses or pay cuts most often trigger poverty spells, while increased earnings or job gains most often lift households out of poverty
- The longer a person has been poor, the less likely it is that they will leave poverty
- Black Americans & female-headed households with children are particularly vulnerable to becoming poor and staying poor for longer periods of time

63% of TANF recipients are short-term (participate from 1-12 months) (2009-2012 data)

The **turbulence created by entering and leaving poverty may create serious stress for parents** that impacts parenting and children's well-being over time

(Cellini, 2008) (Mistry, 2002) (Irving, 2015)(Cai, 2021)

Evolution

Reduced Income



About 10% of low-income adults with children have experienced an economic shock resulting in a **50% income drop** over one year

For low-income families with recently closed CPS investigations:

- Experiencing a negative earnings shock *(reduction of quarterly earnings by 30% or more)* **increases their risk for subsequent CPS investigation by 18% & physical abuse investigation by 26%**
  - Each additional negative earnings shock is associated with a **15% greater likelihood** of CPS involvement
  - ➢ The association **diminishes** when an earnings shock is compensated by receipt of public benefits *(cash and in-kind support)*
    - ➢ For children under 5 years of age, a negative earnings shock offset by receipt of public benefits is associated with:
      - **12% decrease** in risk for CPS involvement
      - **50% decrease** in risk for physical abuse investigation
- Each consecutive quarter with stable income is associated with a **5% lower risk** of CPS investigation

(Cai, 2021, Wisconsin administrative data)

Evolution

Relationship Between Family Income & Time to Reunification

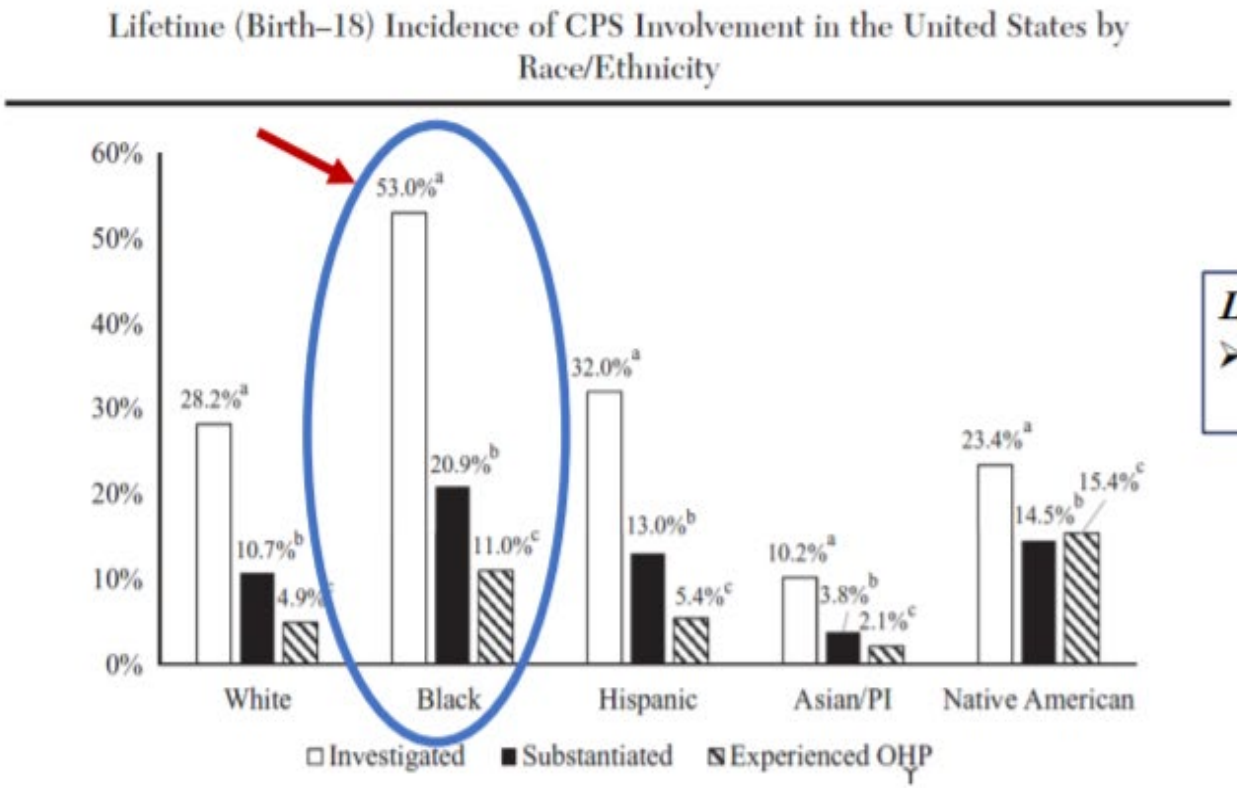
Children in foster care take longer to reunify with their families when:

- Their reason for placement is **neglect** *(compared to physical abuse)*
- Their mothers have **lower average monthly incomes** (cash assistance + earnings) post-placement
  - *Every $100 increase in a mother's post-placement income increases her child's speed of reunification by 6%*
- Their mothers **lose a significant amount of cash assistance** post-placement
  - *Percentage of children remaining in foster care after a year whose mothers lost a significant amount of income from cash assistance post-placement is more than double that of children whose mothers did not lose income from cash assistance post-placement (87% vs. 41%)*
- Their mothers must **pay child support to the state** to offset the costs of foster care
  - *A $100 increase in the monthly child support order amount is predicted to increase the months to reunification by 6.6 months*
- Their mothers had **lower earnings** prior to placement
  - *Children whose mothers earned up to $3,000 in the year prior to placement are associated with an estimated 1.4 month decrease in months to reunification*

(Wells, 2006) (Cancian, 2017)

Evolution

Lifetime Incidence of CPS Involvement by Race/Ethnicity: Over Half of all Black Children Experience Investigation



Annual Investigations

- **3.66 million children** received an investigation disposition in 2019

Lifetime Incidence of Investigation

- **37.4% of all children** experience at least one CPS investigation by age 18

(Berger, 2020)
(Kim, 2017)
(Child Maltreatment, 2019)

Evolution

Economic & Concrete Supports:

A Race Equity Strategy to Address Disparity & Disproportionality in Child Welfare

Children placed in foster care

- Black children: 14% of general child population but 23% of children in foster care
- AIAN children: 1% of general child population but 2% of children in foster care

Children who experience termination of parental rights

- Compared to white children, AIAN children are **2.7 times** more likely and Black children are **2.4 times** more likely to experience termination of both parents' rights

(Child Maltreatment, 2019) (Wildeman, 2020)



Evolution

Choice Point Virginia: Total Annual Public Expenditures on Child Welfare Systems in the U.S.

$33 billion = total direct public expenditures by state & local child welfare agencies in the US (SFY 2018)



(Child Trends, 2021)

Evolution

What does the evidence suggest happens when economic & concrete supports or income are reduced?

Evolution

Increased Economic Hardship Associated with Child Welfare Involvement



Reduced TANF benefits



Reduced employment



Lack of child care



Increased gas prices



Housing instability



Increased child welfare involvement

(Ginther, 2017) (Beimers, 2011) (Paxson, 2003) (Yang, 2016) (Cash, 2003) (Klevens, 2015) (Weiner, 2020) (McLaughlin, 2017) (Bullinger, 2021) (Berger, 2015) (Frioux, 2014) (Wood, 2012)

Evolution

What does the evidence suggest happens when economic & concrete supports are increased?

Evolution

Economic & Concrete Supports As a Population-Level Strategy for Prevention of Child Maltreatment

Each additional $1,000 that states spend annually on public benefit programs per person living in poverty is associated with:

- 4.3% reduction in child maltreatment reports
- 4% reduction in substantiated child maltreatment
- 2.1% reduction in foster care placements
- 7.7% reduction in child fatalities due to maltreatment

In 2017, if all states had increased their investment in public benefit programs by 13.3%, it is estimated that there would have been:

- 181,850 fewer child maltreatment reports
- 28,575 fewer substantiations
- 4,168 fewer foster care placements
- 130 fewer child fatalities due to maltreatment

Each additional **13.3%** that states invest annually in public benefit programs (which would total $46.5 billion nationally) would save up to **$153 billion** in the long term *(due to reduced maltreatment-related costs)*

Public benefit programs included in this analysis:

- ✓ Cash, housing + in-kind assistance
- ✓ Low-income housing infrastructure development
- ✓ Child care assistance
- ✓ Refundable EITC
- ✓ Medical Assistance Programs (including Medicaid + CHIP)

(Puls, 2021, state-level data FFY 2010-2017)

Evolution



Child Welfare Interventions Augmented with Concrete Supports

- Differential Response
- Family Preservation

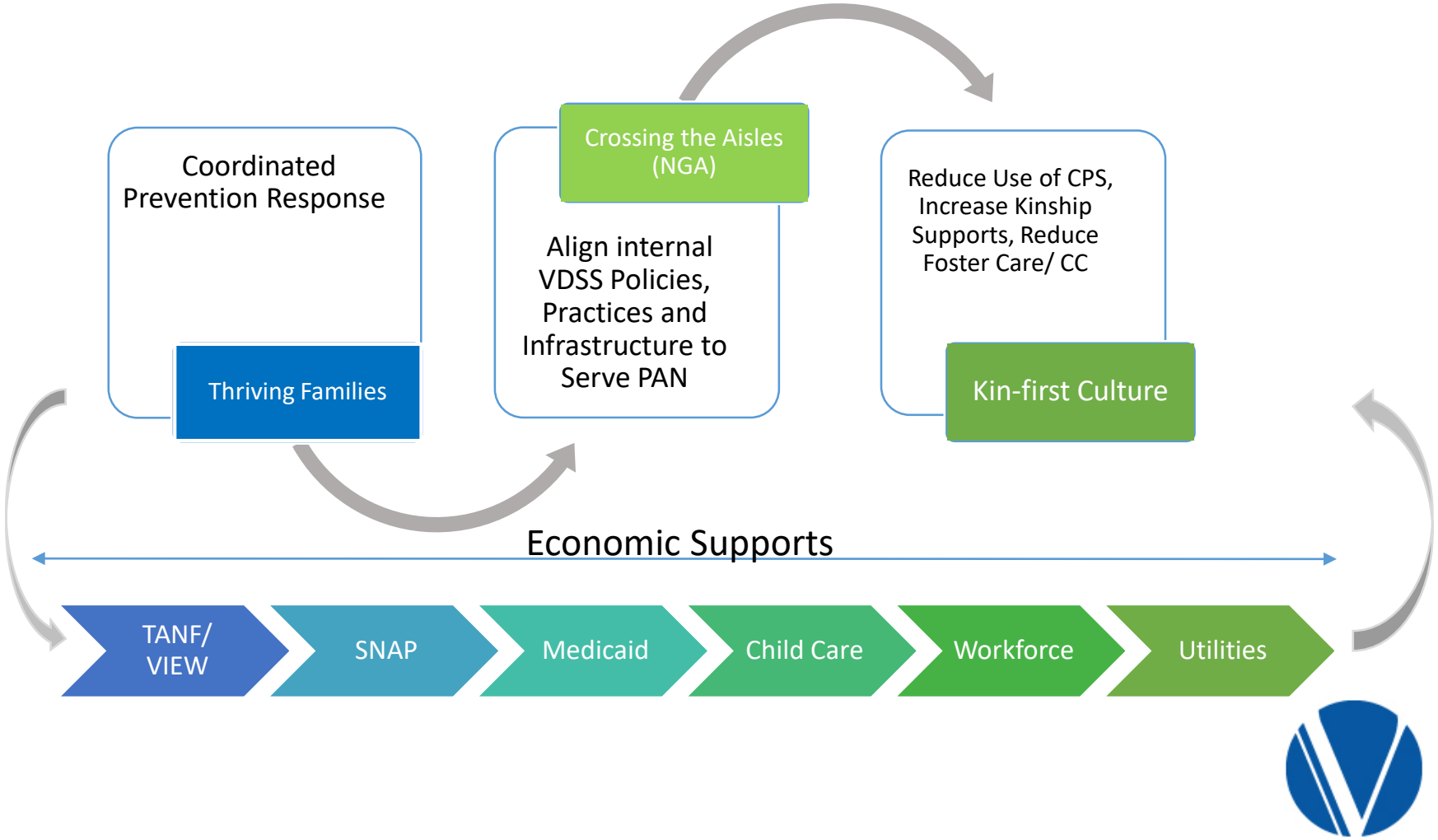
Concrete Supports

- Medicaid
- Supportive Housing
- Paid Family Leave
- Child Care
- SNAP & WIC
- Legal Support

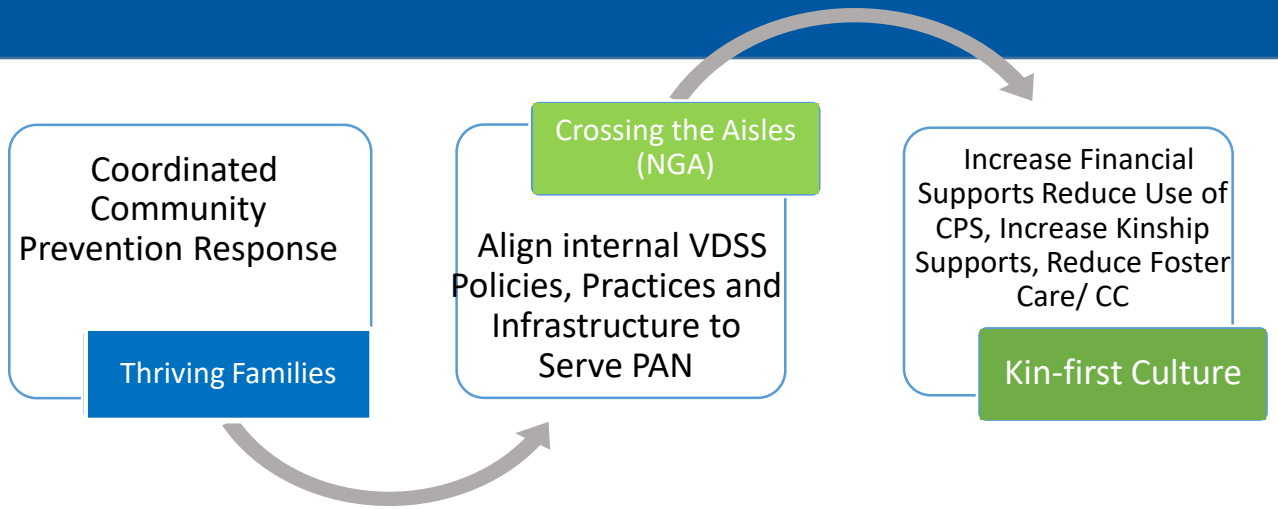
Economic Supports

- Minimum Wage Increase
- Employment
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Public Benefits (TANF)
- Child Support
- Sustained Income Support

Evolution


Coordinated Prevention Response
Thriving Families
Crossing the Aisles (NGA)
Align internal VDSS Policies, Practices and Infrastructure to Serve PAN
Reduce Use of CPS, Increase Kinship Supports, Reduce Foster Care/ CC
Kin-first Culture
Economic Supports
TANF/ VIEW
SNAP
Medicaid
Child Care
Workforce
Utilities

Evolution



TANF/ VIEW → SNAP → Medicaid → Child Care → Workforce → Utilities

Child Support

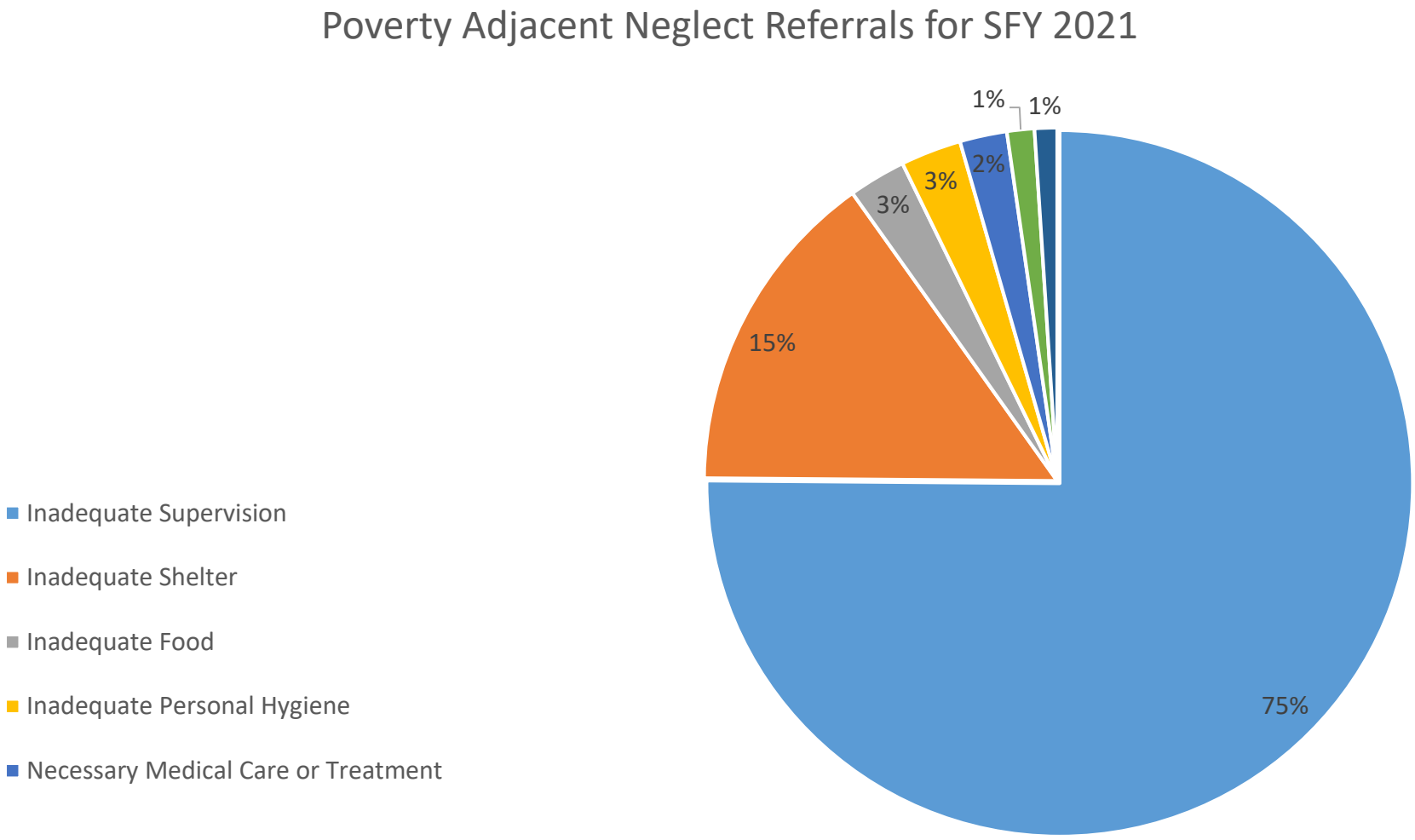
Stakeholder Systemic Shifts
- Primary Prevention?

Re-imagine CPS Hotline
- Help Line?

Reduce Silos/ Inter-agency Alignments
- Economic Supports/ Whole Family Approach

Increase Kin-first culture and In-home Services
- Increase Kinship Engagement/ Reduce Foster Care

Defining Poverty-Adjacent Neglect



PAN Referrals in SFY 2021

78,775 referrals received total

15,468 referrals involving poverty-adjacent neglect

33,800 (43%) of all referrals were accepted

13,866 (90%) of PAN referrals were accepted

41% of all accepted referrals involve PAN

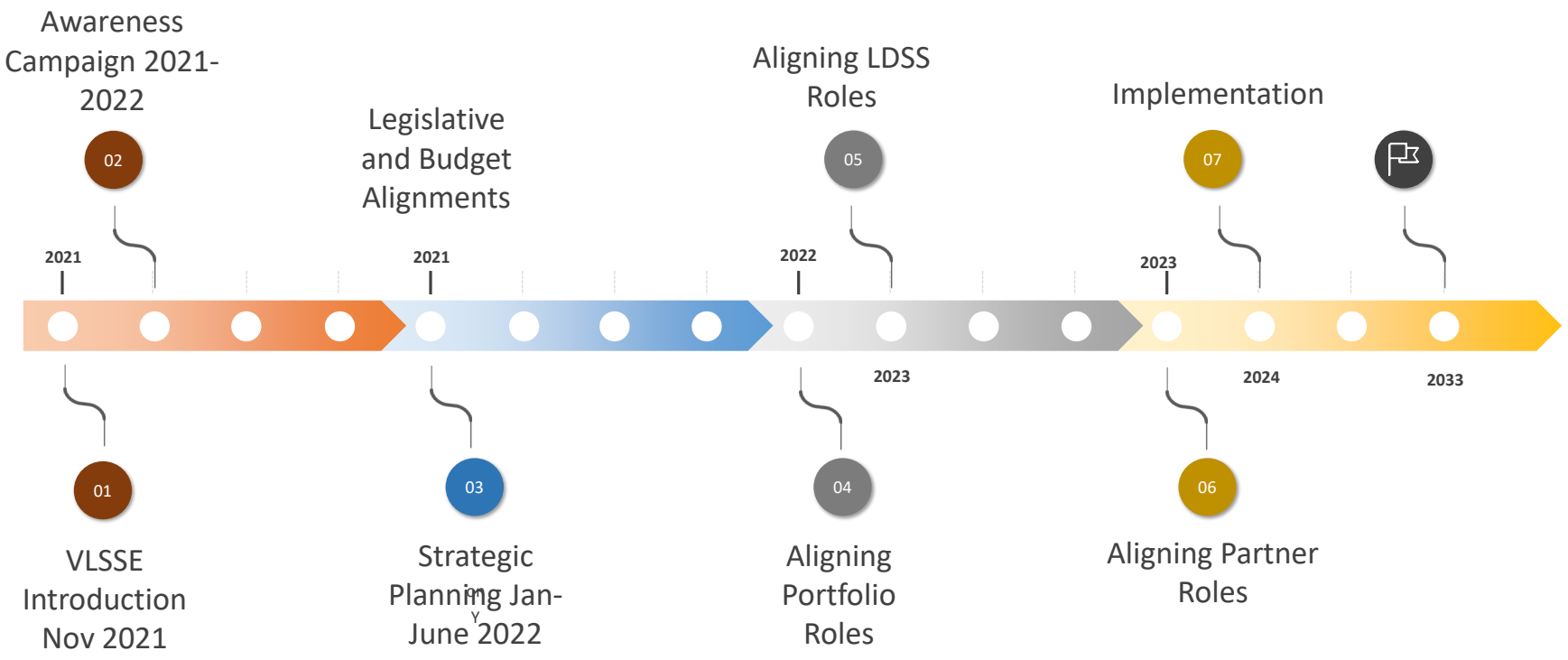
10,350 of accepted PAN referrals (75%) resulted in a family assessment, compared to 24,562 (73%) of all accepted referrals

5,234 (44%) of accepted PAN referrals involved documented parental substance use, compared to 11,092 (33%) of all accepted referrals.

Child Referrals by Race and Ethnicity Poverty Adjacent Neglect SFY 2021

Race/Ethnicity	% of VA Child Population	% of VA Child Poverty Population	% of PAN Referrals	% of PAN Screen-ins	% of PAN Substance Use Cases
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Asian	7.2%	2.6%	1.1%	1.2%	0.7%
Black	21.2%	38.0%	27.0%	26.2%	21.6%
Hispanic	15.0%	20.2%	11.1%	11.2%	7.9%
Multi-Race	6.5%	7.0%	6.4%	6.4%	6.5%
White	49.9%	32.0%	48.3%	49.3%	56.4%
Unknown	NA	NA	5.7%	5.4%	6.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Evolution


Awareness Campaign 2021-2022
02
2021
01
VLSSE Introduction Nov 2021
Legislative and Budget Alignments
2021
03
Strategic Planning Jan-June 2022
Aligning LDSS Roles
05
2022
04
Aligning Portfolio Roles
2023
Implementation
07
2023
06
Aligning Partner Roles
2024
2033

Breakout – Brainstorming Session

What are barriers to making Evolution happen?

What community partners would need to be involved to ensure system shifts can happen and reflect the priorities and needs of families?



Breakout Session – 20 Minutes

Some of you may be automatically sent to your breakout and some of you may need to select “Join a breakout room”

Room 1, Ebony and Julia

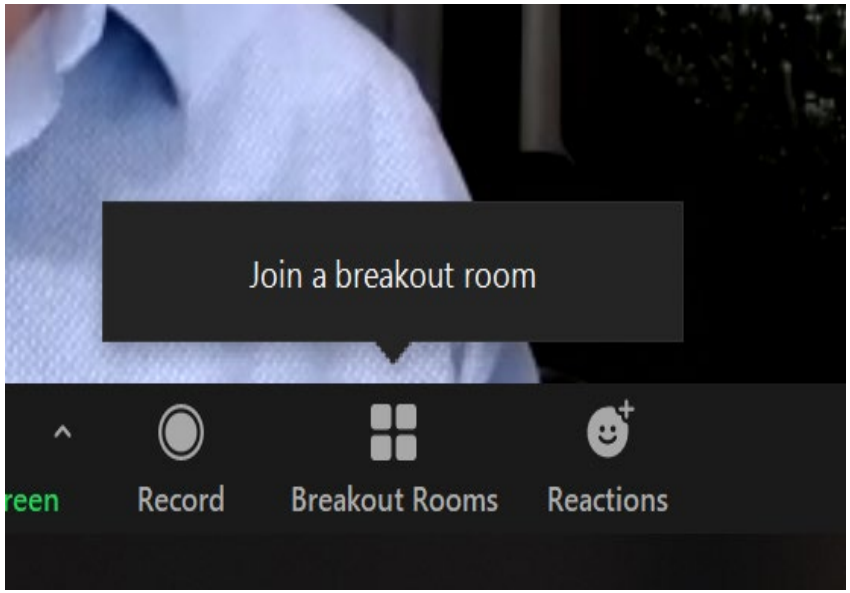
Room 2, Shannon and Lora

Room 3, Nicole and Sarah

Room 4, Kirby and Nicole Z.

Room 5, Morgan and Sadie

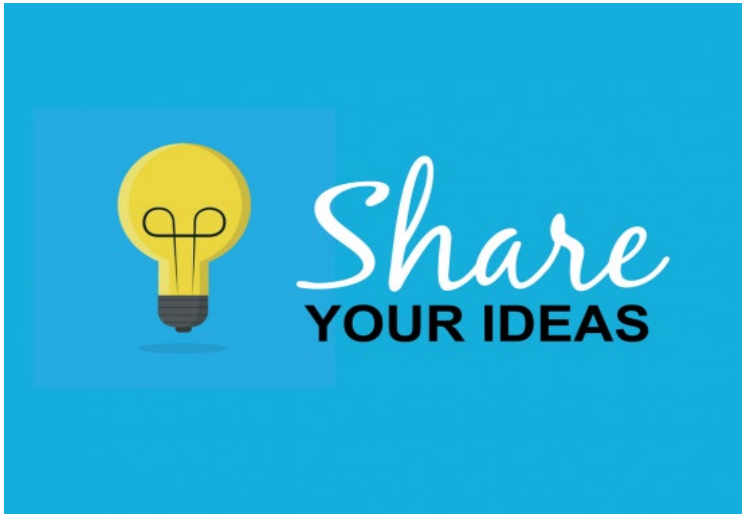
Room 6, Tameka and Traci



Report Out

What are barriers to making Evolution happen?

What community partners would need to be involved to ensure system shifts can happen and reflect the priorities and needs of families?



5 Minute Break

- **Mute** your line
- **Disable** your camera



Division Updates



CFSR/ PIP

Driver's License Program



Evidence Based Services



Legislation



PIP

PIP

Hurray!!!!



	PIP Baseline	PIP Goal	MP1	MP2	MP3	MP4	MP5	MP6	MP7	MP8	MP9	MP10	MP11	MP12	MP13	MP14
Item 1	77%	87%	68%	70%	74%	71%	72%	70%	76%	83%	78%	84%	86%	78%	83%	88%
Item 2	68%	77%	61%	60%	74%	71%	62%	49%	58%	77%	85%	82%	79%	86%	83%	79%
Item 3	49%	56%	50%	59%	59%	59%	60%	54%	51%	67%	71%	71%	79%	73%	66%	64%
Item 4	71%	79%	61%	73%	86%	70%	71%	77%	80%	89%	95%	89%	82%	75%	70%	77%
Item 5	66%	75%	73%	73%	65%	74%	77%	55%	58%	81%	81%	80%	82%	79%	84%	86%
Item 6	39%	48%	39%	34%	30%	27%	30%	36%	45%	57%	61%	61%	73%	75%	73%	73%
Item 12	39%	46%	27%	30%	43%	33%	31%	29%	26%	37%	43%	46%	53%	63%	61%	46%
Item 13	35%	43%	30%	41%	44%	35%	41%	45%	43%	51%	54%	64%	81%	80%	70%	63%
Item 14	57%	64%	56%	66%	64%	61%	70%	76%	76%	83%	80%	77%	86%	86%	81%	77%
Item15	34%	42%	19%	22%	42%	42%	36%	33%	34%	43%	51%	62%	77%	75%	70%	64%

Learning Collaborative Participants

Albemarle
Appomattox
Bedford
Caroline
Fairfax
Essex
Lynchburg
Madison
Mathews
Harrisonburg/Rockingham
Newport News
Norfolk
Pulaski
Richmond City
Roanoke
Spotsylvania
Tazewell
Virginia Beach
Winchester

Partners

CIP
OCS
Children's Bureau

Thank You!

Legislative Update

Legislation which passed:

- HB 16/SB 63 Safe Haven protections
- HB 434 Modification to criminal code to expand definition of ‘intimate parts’
- HB 751 Mandated reporters
- HB 434/SB 316 Juvenile records pertaining to “crossover youth”
- HB 1334 Definition of caretaker
- SB 689 Foster Home Approval/Barrier Crimes
- SB 577 Background checks; children’s residential facilities
- HB 869 Private Adoption revised language

Legislative update

Legislation which passed but not yet in the Budget:

- HB 50 - Safe haven protections
- SB 396 Foster care placements
- HB 716/SB 307 Kinship foster home denial appeal

Legislation to Watch (in conference, required funding is not in the budget)

- HB349

- HB653 Collaborative foster home approvals

Also of note:
iFoster portal/app funding is included in the House budget. The app would permit access to Virginia and locality specific resources available to individuals who are currently being served or who have been served in the foster care system, as well as professionals. Funding is for a staff person to collect all the information and maintain updated resource information.



Family First EBP & Prevention Update

March 2022

Evidence-Based Programs

Current

- Multisystemic Therapy
- Family Functional Therapy
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Adding

- Motivational Interviewing
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy
- Home Builders
- Family Check-Up

EBP – Training RFA

CEPVa CENTER *for* EVIDENCE-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Providers may apply for training and associated funding to become certified in one of the 7 EBSs

Kick-Off – February 4th

EBS Purveyor Open Houses – March 2nd and 4th

Applications must include a demonstration of need

Letter of support from the LDSS

EBP – Capacity Building

Training	• EBS specific trainings for LDSS planned to begin summer 2022
CSBs	• High need areas
CQI	• Communities of Practice
NIRN	• National Implementation Research Network
CWSE7000	• Family First in Virginia • 5 Modules in COVLC

EBP – Prevention Plan Update

- Status update
- Inclusion of 4 new EBPs
- Timeframe

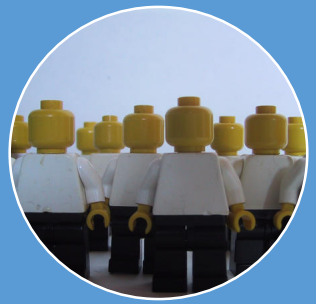
Transportation Assistance Program

- Additional Chafee funding provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act
- Received applications from 91 LDSS for 1188 youth
- Funds must be spent by September 20, 2022
- VDSS submitted an application for targeted technical assistance to build out a statewide transportation assistance program.

> 5% of teens in foster care obtain a driver's license by age 18



What is the CFSR?



Ensure Conformity with federal child welfare requirements



What is actually happening to children and families engaged in child welfare



Assist the states in helping children and families achieve positive outcomes

Child and Family Services Review

Why is the CFSR so Important?

Family

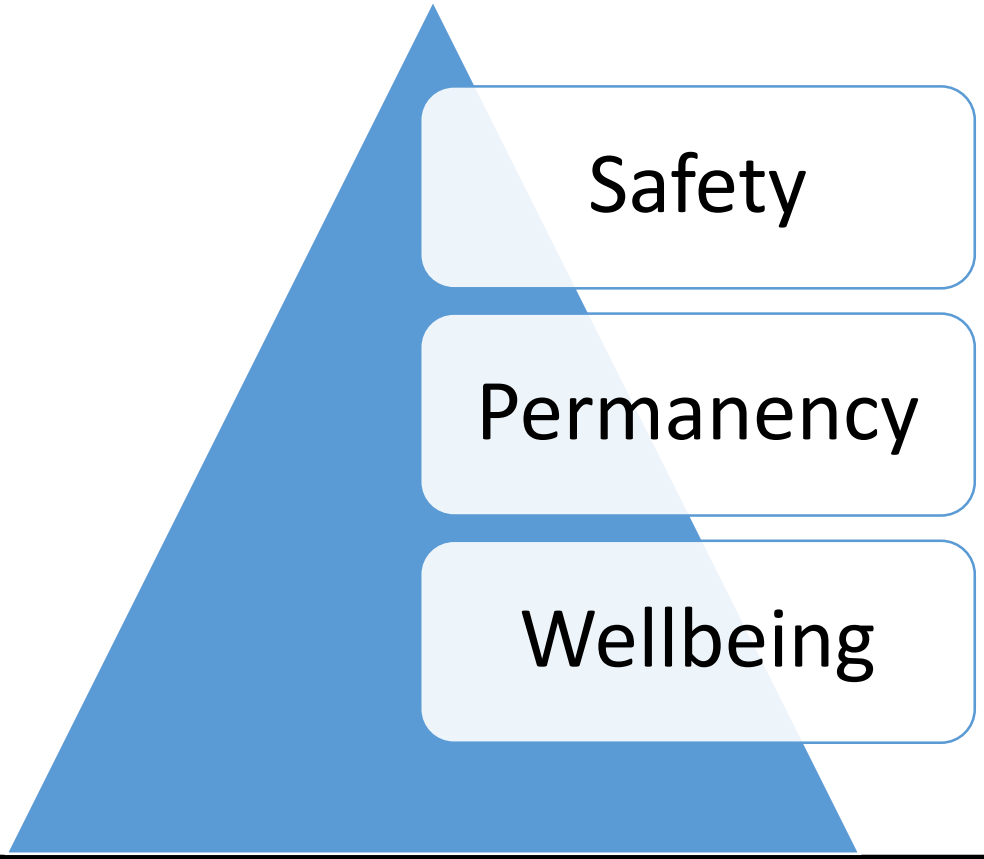
- CFSR give the family the ability to share their experience to affect change
- CFSR offers the family the continued ability to engage in the process

LDSS

- CFSR provides the LDSS with feedback regarding their practice
- CFSR provides tangible data regarding areas of strength and areas needing improvement

Why is the CFSR so Important to the State?

Continuous Quality Improvement



Statewide Assessment



Safety



Permanency



Well-being

7 Systemic Factors

Systemic Factors

- Statewide Child Welfare Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Service Array and Resource Development
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent licensing, recruitment, and retention

Safety

Safety Outcome 1

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
  - **Item 1:** Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

Safety Outcome 2

- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate
  - **Item 2:** Services to the Family to protect children in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care
  - **Item 3:** Risk and Safety Assessment and management

Permanency

Permanency Outcome 1

- Children Have Permanency and Stability in their Living Situations
  - **Item 4:** Stability of foster care placement
  - **Item 5:** Permanency Goal for Child
  - **Item 6:** Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA)

Permanency

Permanency Outcome 2

- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for the children
  - **Item 7:** Placement with Siblings
  - **Item 8:** Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care
  - **Item 9:** Preserving Connections
  - **Item 10:** Relative Placement
  - **Item 11:** Relationship of Child in care with Parents

Well-being

Well-Being Outcome 1

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their Children's needs
  - **Item 12:** Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents
  - **Item 13:** Child and Family involvement in case planning
  - **Item 14:** Caseworker visits with Child
  - **Item 15:** Caseworker visits with Parent

Well-Being

Well-Being Outcome 2

- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
  - **Item 16:** Educational

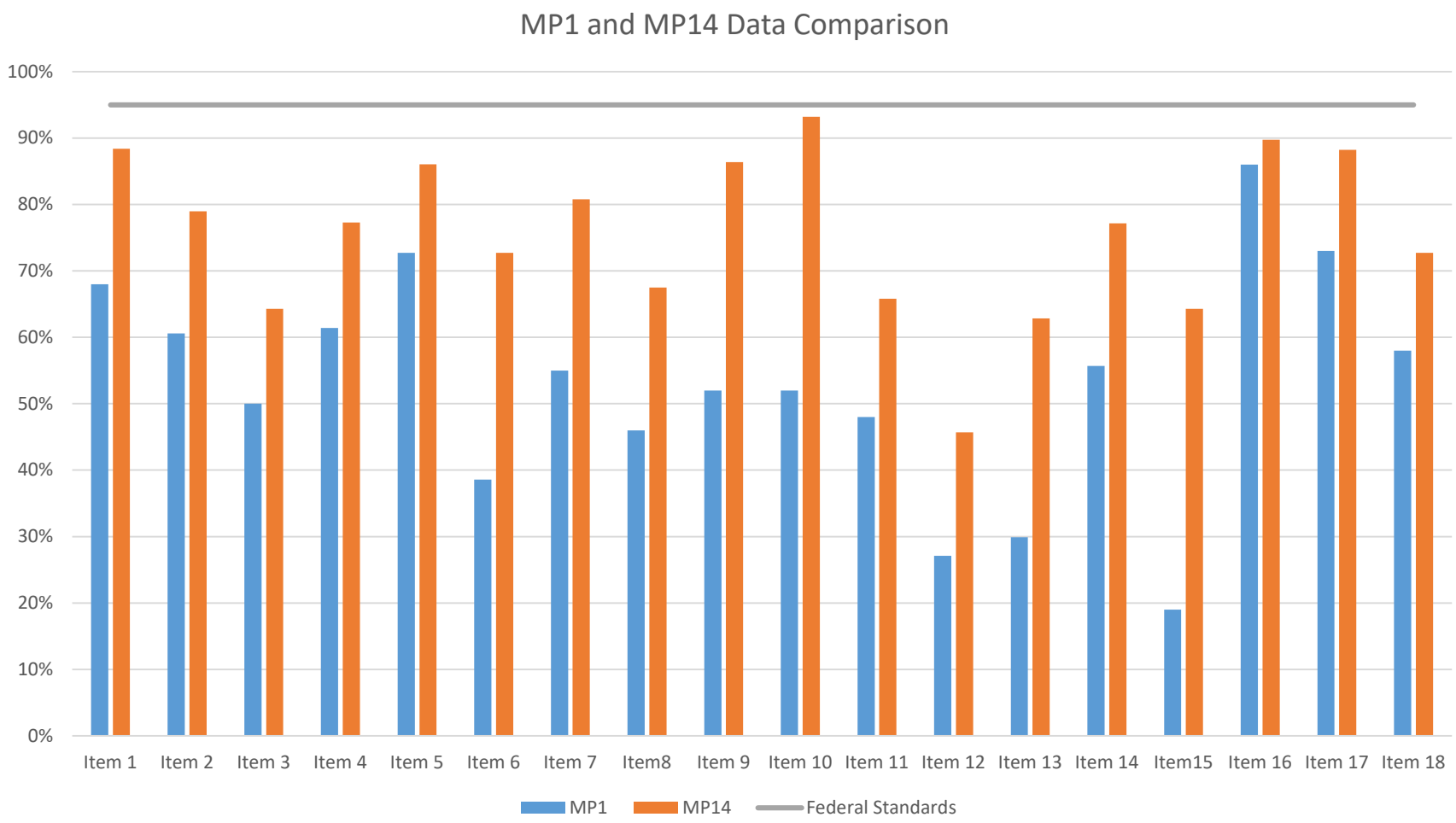
Well-Being Outcome 3

- Children receive adequate services to meet their Physical and Mental Health needs
  - **Item 17:** Physical Health of the Child
  - **Item 18:** Mental/Behavioral health of the Child

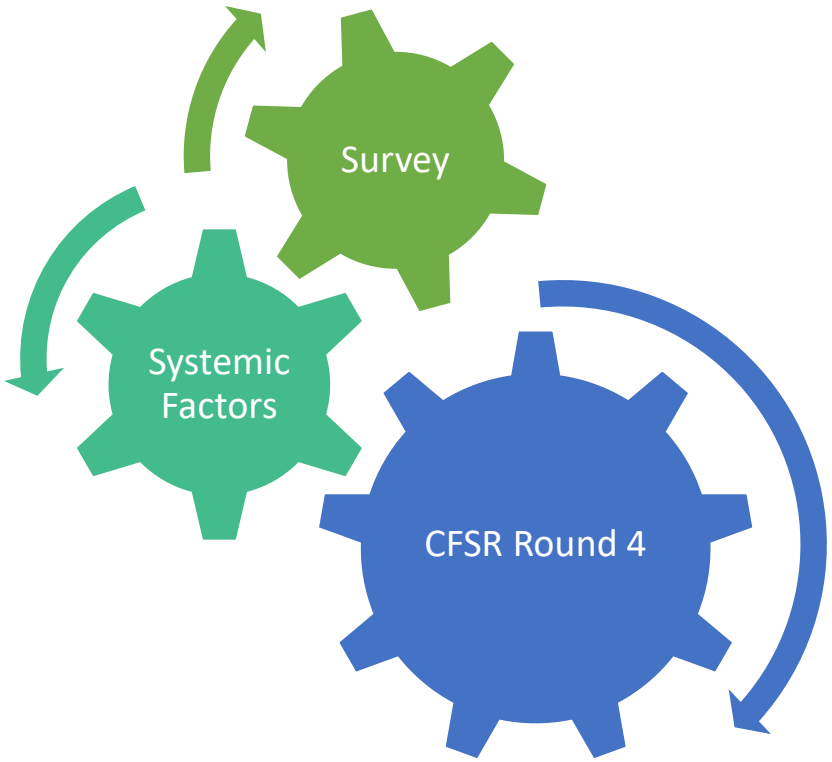
MP 14 (August 2021- January 2022)
Items with Federal Oversight

Items Requiring Measurement	PIP Baseline[3]	PIP Goal[5]	MP1	MP2	MP3	MP4	MP5	MP6	MP7	MP8	MP9	MP10	MP11	MP12	MP13	MP14
1Timeliness of Initiating CPS Reports	77%	87%	68%	70%	74%	71%	72%	70%	76%	83%	78%	84%	86%	78%	83%	88%
2 Services to Family to Protect Child and Prevent Removal /Re-entry	68%	77%	61%	60%	74%	71%	62%	49%	58%	77%	85%	82%	79%	86%	83%	79%
3 Risk and Safety Assessment and Services	49%	56%	50%	59%	59%	59%	60%	54%	51%	67%	71%	71%	79%	73%	66%	64%
4 Stability of FC Placement	71%	79%	61%	73%	86%	70%	71%	77%	80%	89%	95%	89%	82%	75%	70%	77%
5 Permanency Goal	66%	75%	73%	73%	65%	74%	77%	55%	58%	81%	81%	80%	82%	79%	84%	86%
6 Achieving Goal	39%	48%	39%	34%	30%	27%	30%	36%	45%	57%	61%	61%	73%	75%	73%	73%
12 Needs and Services	39%	46%	27%	30%	43%	33%	31%	29%	26%	37%	43%	46%	53%	63%	61%	46%
13 Child and Family Involvement Case Planning	35%	43%	30%	41%	44%	35%	41%	45%	43%	51%	54%	64%	81%	80%	70%	63%
14 Caseworker Visits with Child	57%	64%	56%	66%	64%	61%	70%	76%	76%	83%	80%	77%	86%	86%	81%	77%
15 Caseworker Visits with Parent	34%	42%	19%	22%	42%	42%	36%	33%	34%	43%	51%	62%	77%	75%	70%	64%

Virginia's CFSR Growth Chart



The Future for VDSS and our Stakeholders



- State Led
- Six months to complete the review
- Stakeholder Input needed
- Focus on the 7 systemic factors
- Surveys sent to participants
- Focus Groups

5 Minute Break

- **Mute** your line
- **Disable** your camera



DFS Parent Advisory Council



Alisa Thornton



Gabe Adler



Jaicin Xander



Shanelle Catoe



Stephanie Aldrich



Amber Keen



Amber Owens



Iquana Peck



Jesse Wysocki



Tamara Adler



Trinney Winfield

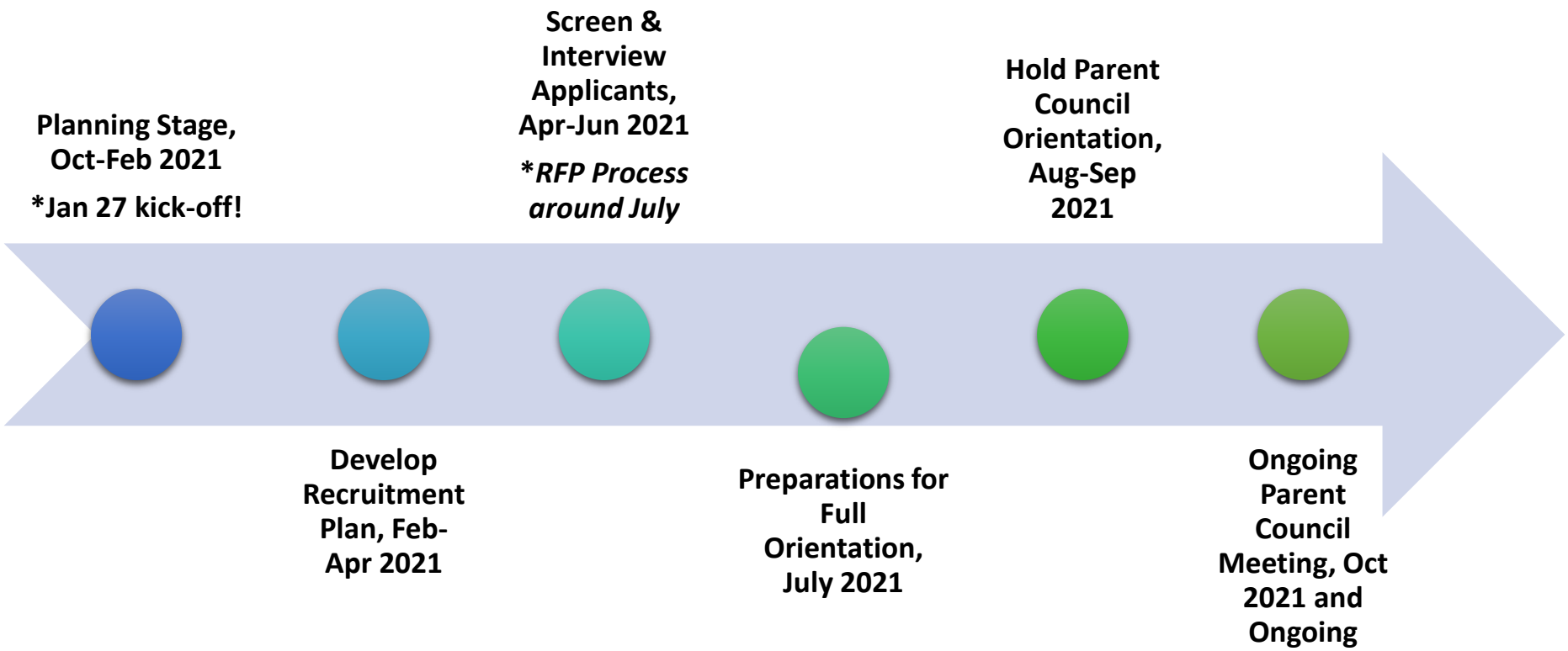
Parent Voice



Lived expertise:

- Meaningful
- Authentic
- Diverse

Planning Process



Alisa Thornton



"I hope to work with the DFS staff to help ensure families know how to easily access services and be linked to them as quickly as possible. And I hope to see parents and the DFS staff work together to unite families and have brighter futures and stronger communities."

Mission Statement



The Council will collaborate with the Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Family Services to equitably shape policies and practices that promote positive change and enable all families to thrive.

Parent Council Activities

- General Assembly
- ARPA Substance Misuse & Suicide Prevention Project
- Foster Parent Recruitment Video
- DV Action Team Project Planning

Collective Thinking

How can your agency help to ensure that children who enter foster care remain connected to their families and natural support networks?



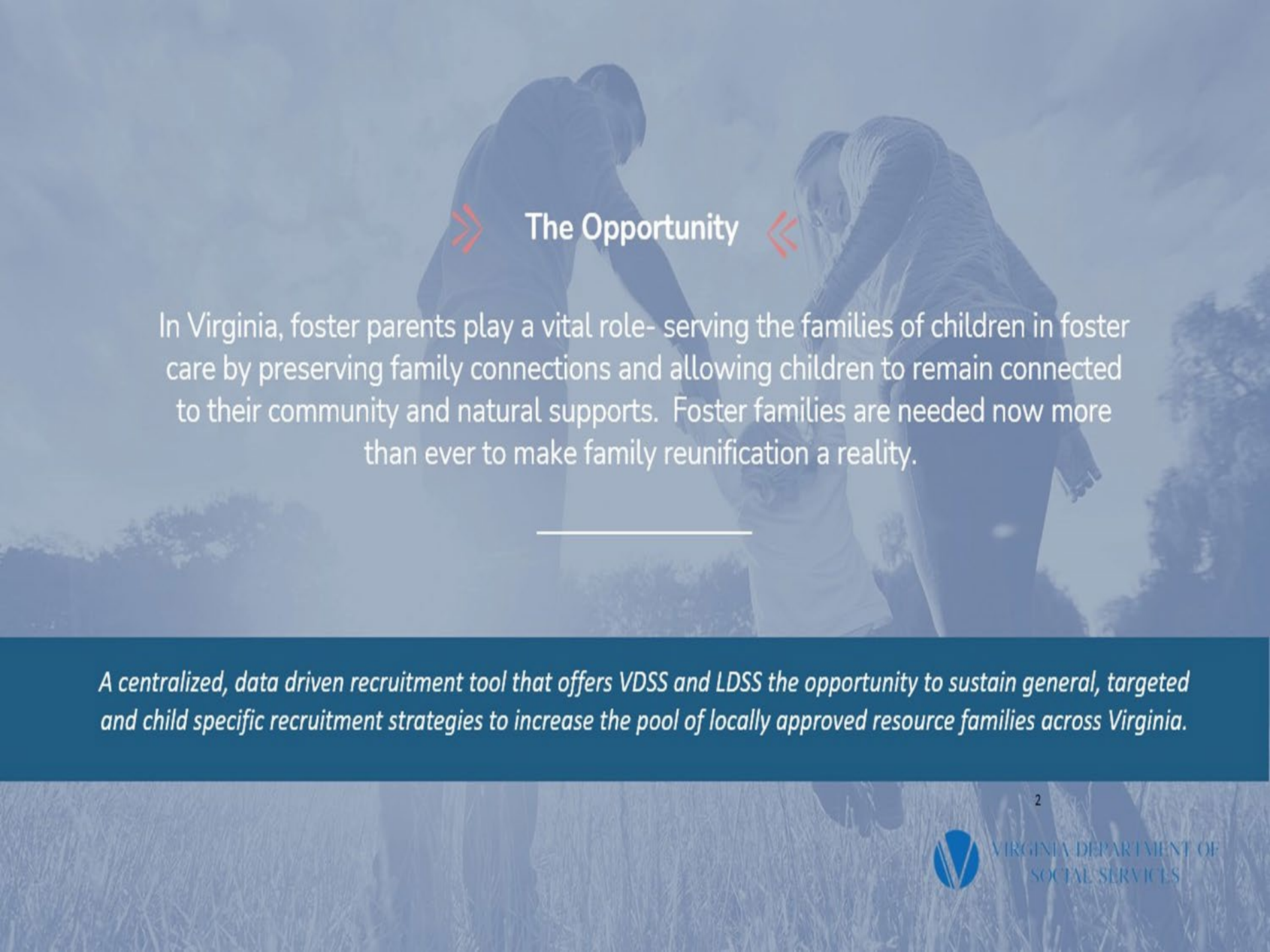
adoption-share

Faster Families Highway for Recruitment

A Partnership with VDSS

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES





The Opportunity

In Virginia, foster parents play a vital role- serving the families of children in foster care by preserving family connections and allowing children to remain connected to their community and natural supports. Foster families are needed now more than ever to make family reunification a reality.

A centralized, data driven recruitment tool that offers VDSS and LDSS the opportunity to sustain general, targeted and child specific recruitment strategies to increase the pool of locally approved resource families across Virginia.

Recruitment + Approval on Purpose

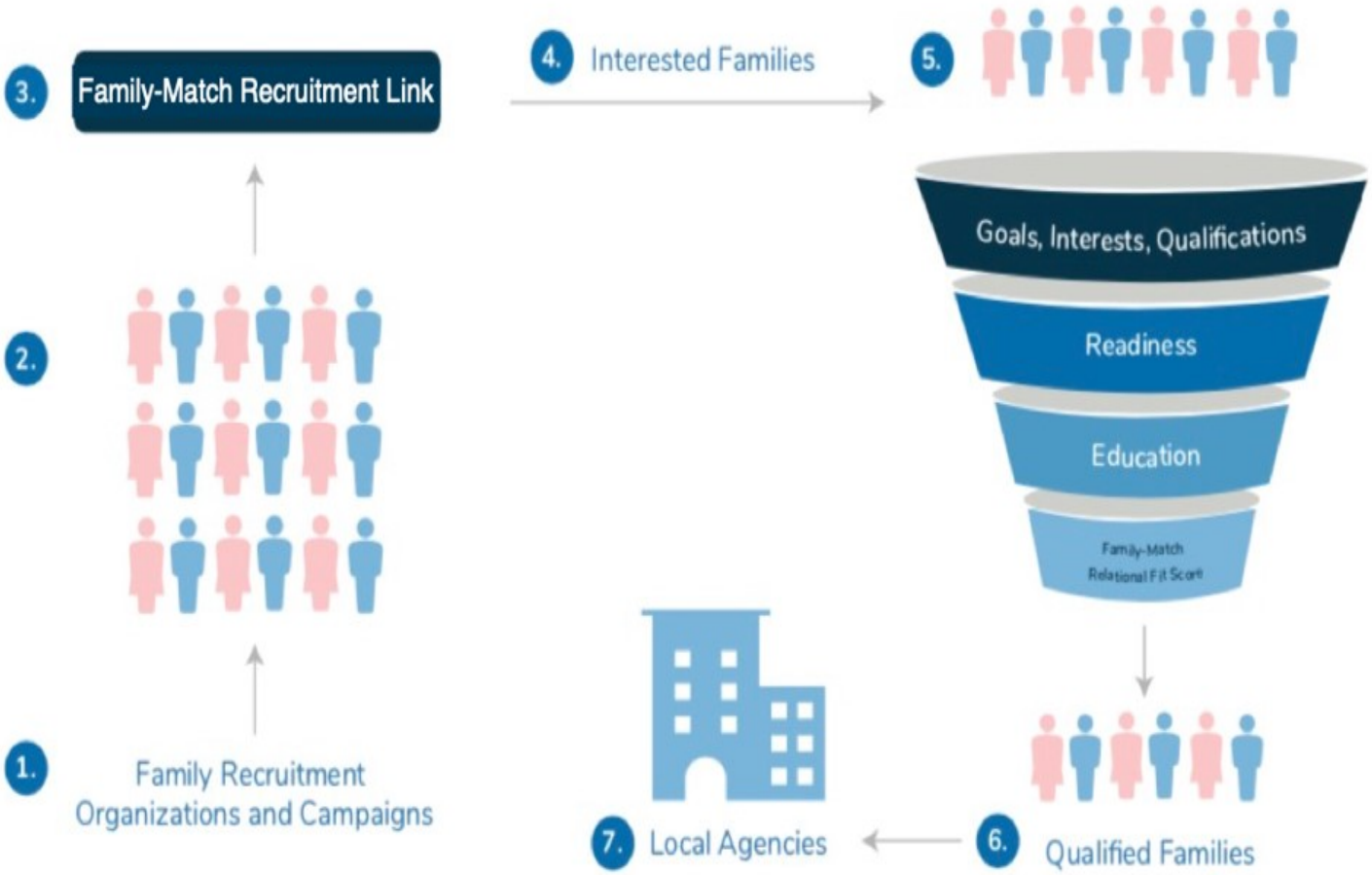
The first bottleneck in the onboarding process occurs at the intersection of recruitment and the initiation of the licensing process.

Our Family-Match program for recruitment marries the work of family recruitment organizations with child-placing agencies—resulting in an effortless, coordinated approach to identifying and fast-tracking stellar families just starting off on their adoption or foster care journey. Together with our tool, the most compatible, willing, and capable families can be onboarded first in consideration of meeting the needs of specific children waiting for a stable, loving home.

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Agency's acquisition pipeline remains unchanged

Faster Families Highway prevent your on-boarding process from being overwhelmed by families who are not ready to continue the process.



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We Use Data + Predictive Analytics to Keep Families Moving Forward



Families complete our six-step recruitment portal.



Once a family has completed the steps, child welfare workers can evaluate prospective families on markers like relational fit, capacity to meet specific needs, and willingness to care for children currently in need of a home.



While all families are welcome, child welfare workers can prioritize including those families in pre-service training who are the most compatible, capable, and willing to meet the needs of children who are currently waiting for placement.

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6 Step Recruitment Portal for Prospective Families

Step 1: Introduce Yourself

Address, Email, Phone, Annual Income, Religious Preference, One Parent or Two Parent home, persons under 18 in the home, Previous Foster or Adoption Experience, Criminal Attestation, Willingness to Provide a criminal background check if requested by a worker, Hobbies, Interests, ect.

Step 2: Goals and Desires

Preferences on age, race, gender, number of children willing to foster or adopt, willingness to care for children with medical/physical; mental/behavioral; cognitive/developmental needs + proposed capacity to meet those needs, call out for specific diagnosis if any.

Step 3 and 4: Assessments

"Matchabilty" + Readiness assessment.

Step 5: Photo Upload

Families asked to upload two pictures- one of themselves and their home.

Step 6: Training

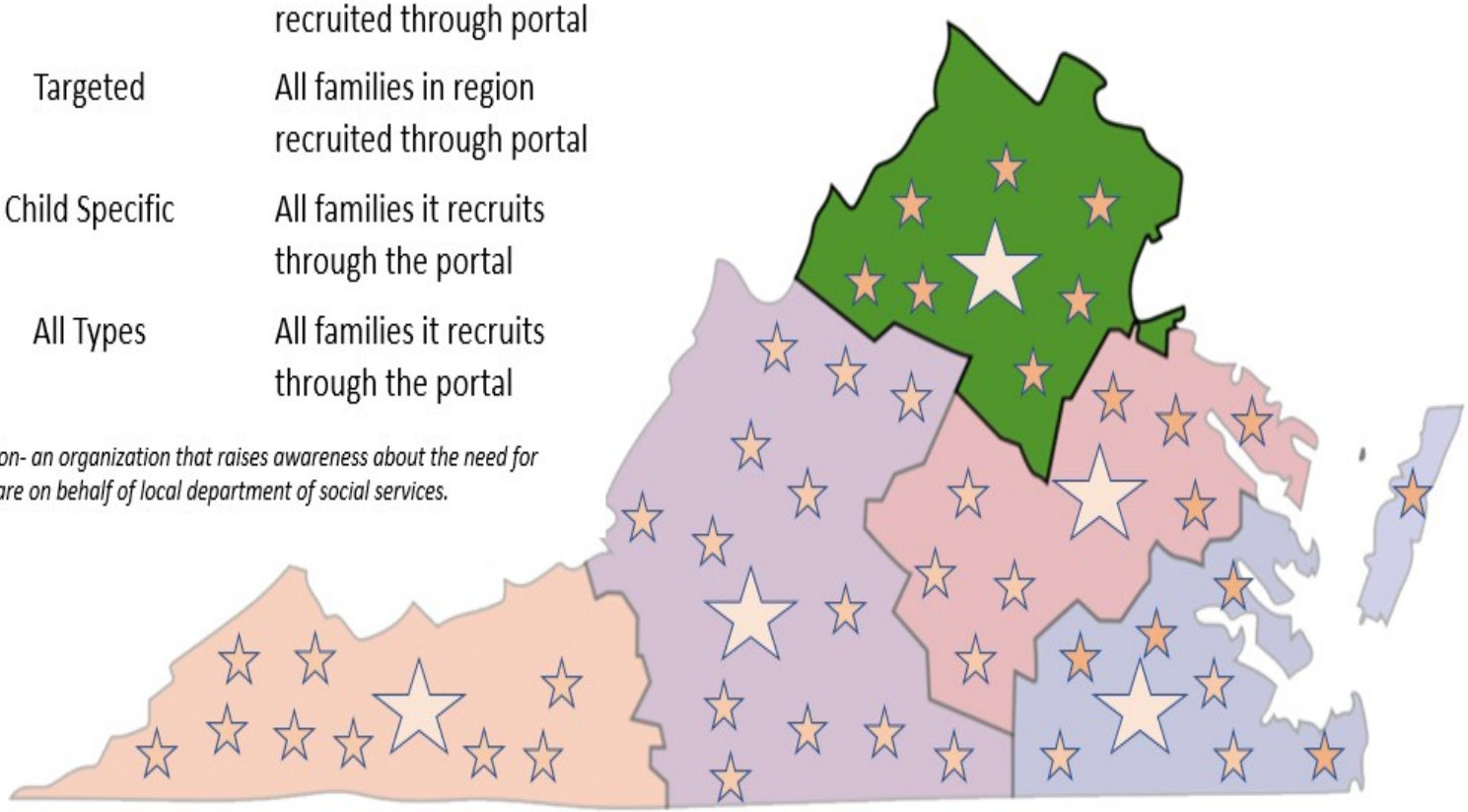
Families take a 90 -minute free digital course, Overview of Trauma Informed Care

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Fillion Family: family who adopted in Florida thanks to the strategic partnership with Selfless Love Foundation whose contributions have made Family-Match available to agencies and families at no cost.

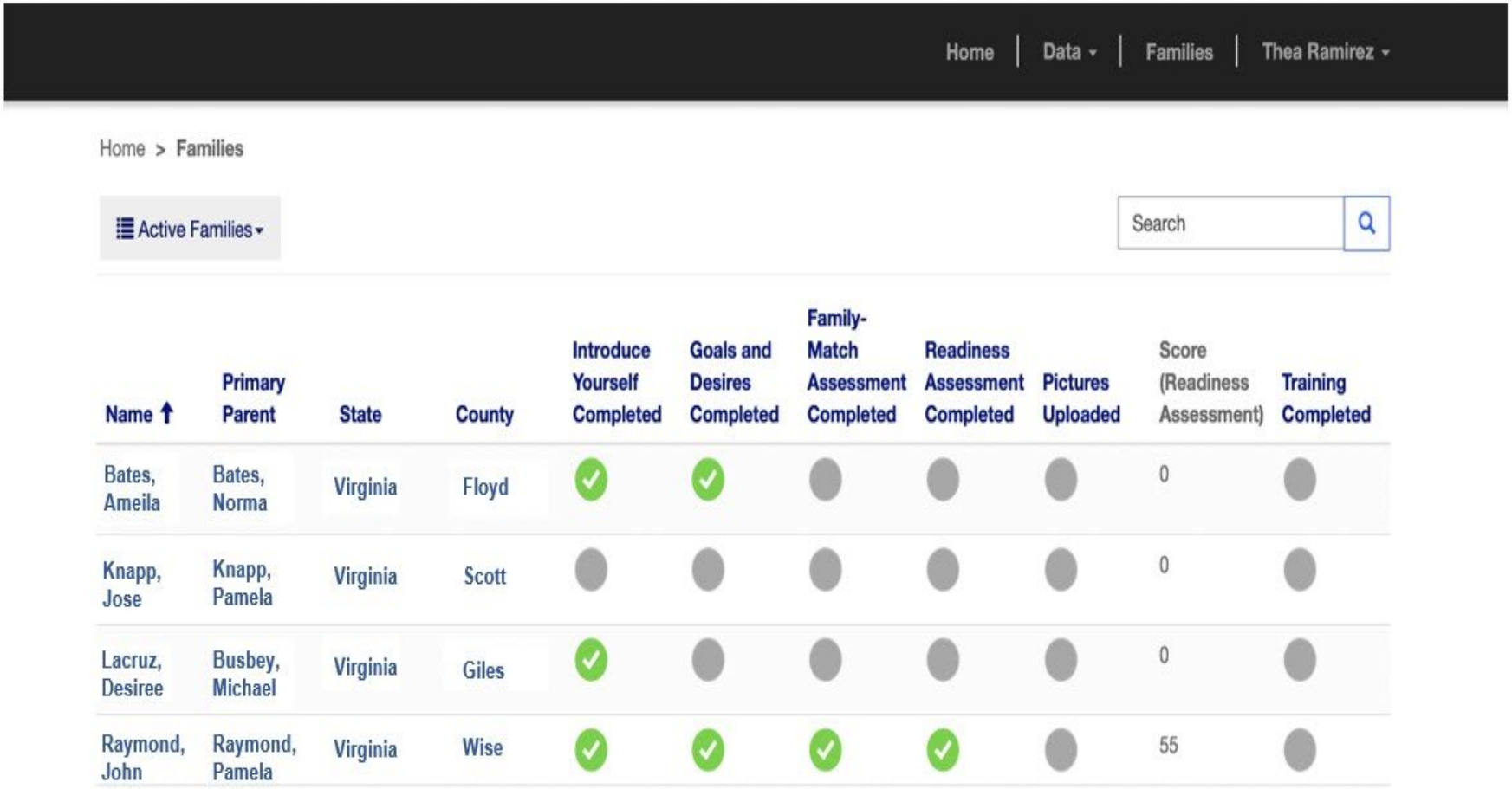
Entity	Recruitment Type	Family Visibility
VDSS	General	All families in state recruited through portal
Regional	Targeted	All families in region recruited through portal
LDSS	Child Specific	All families it recruits through the portal
*FRO	All Types	All families it recruits through the portal

Family Recruitment Organization- an organization that raises awareness about the need for foster families for children in care on behalf of local department of social services.



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Families are visible as they progress through recruitment portal.



Name	Primary Parent	State	County	Introduce Yourself Completed	Goals and Desires Completed	Family-Match Assessment Completed	Readiness Assessment Completed	Pictures Uploaded	Score (Readiness Assessment)	Training Completed
Bates, Ameila	Bates, Norma	Virginia	Floyd	✓	✓				0	
Knapp, Jose	Knapp, Pamela	Virginia	Scott						0	
Lacruz, Desiree	Busbey, Michael	Virginia	Giles	✓					0	
Raymond, John	Raymond, Pamela	Virginia	Wise	✓	✓	✓	✓		55	

Families are visible as they progress into Family-Match.

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Home | Data | Families | Thea Ramirez

Home > Families

Families in Family-Match

Search

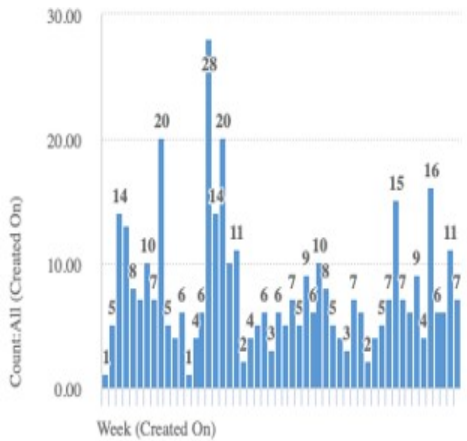
Name	Primary Parent	State	County	Recruited	Home Study Licensing Process	Score (Readiness Assessment)	Matched	Placement Successful
Carrion, Roland	Carrion, Roland	Virginia	Craig	✓		66		
Griswold, Nathan	Griswold, Donna	Virginia	Franklin	✓	✓	67	✓	
So, Fumio	So, Sana	Virginia	Lynchburg			61		

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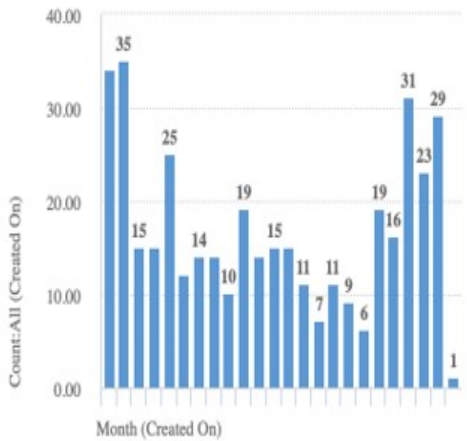
Home > Data > **Recruitment Progress**

Recruitment Progress

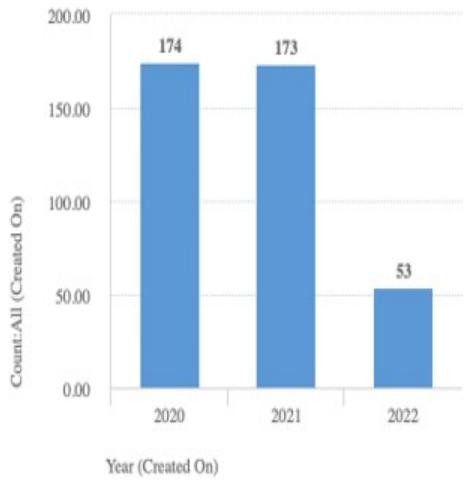
Family Sign in Weekly



Family Sign in Monthly



Family Sign in Yearly



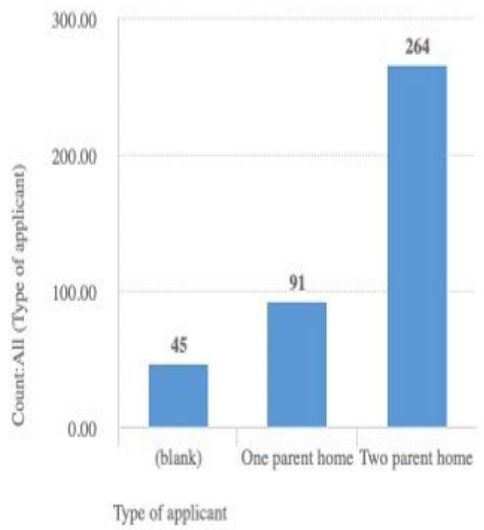
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adoption-share Powered by Adoption-Share's Family Match Program

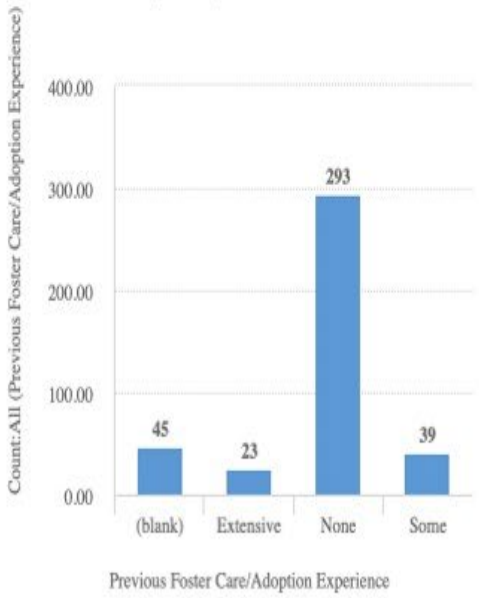
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My Families

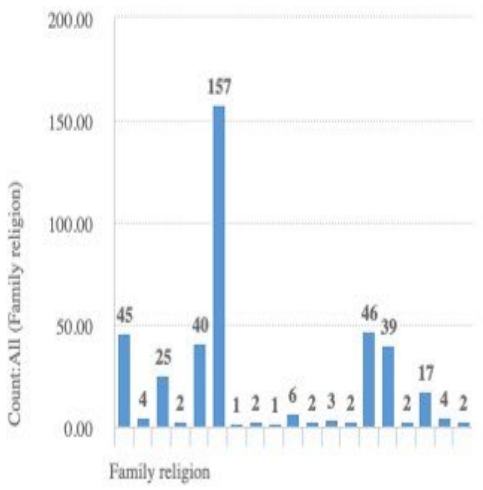
One or Two Applicant Family



Prior Foster or Adoptive Experience



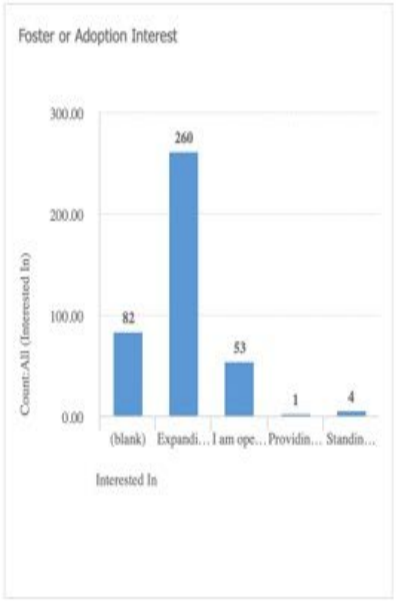
Religion Affiliation of Families

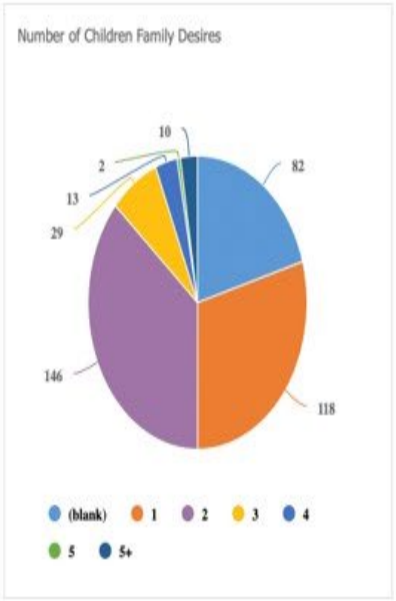


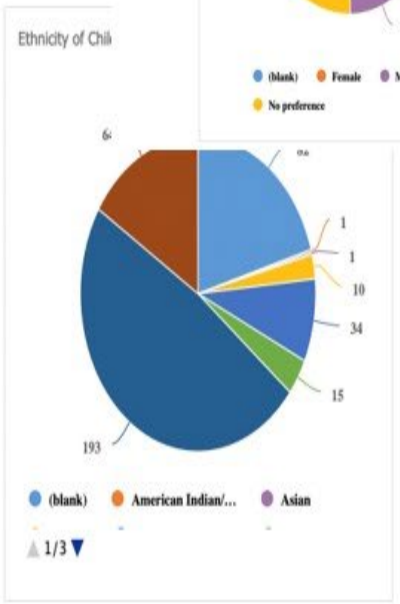
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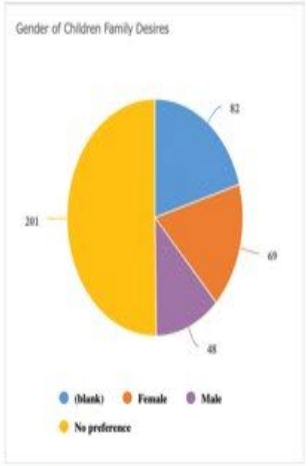
Home > Data > **Families Goals and Desires**

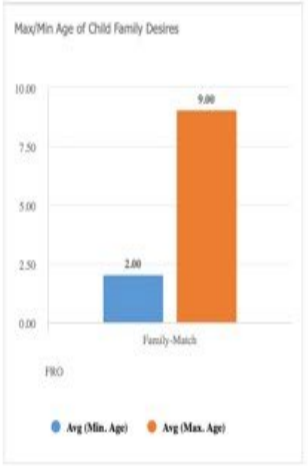
Families Goals and Desires





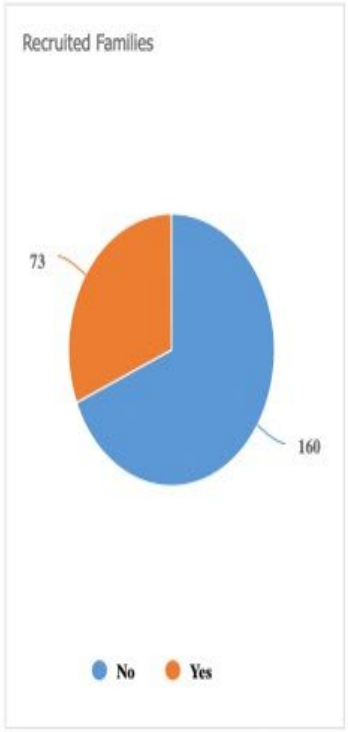


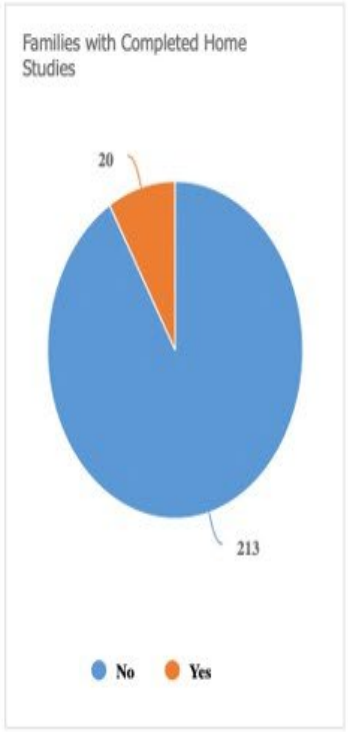


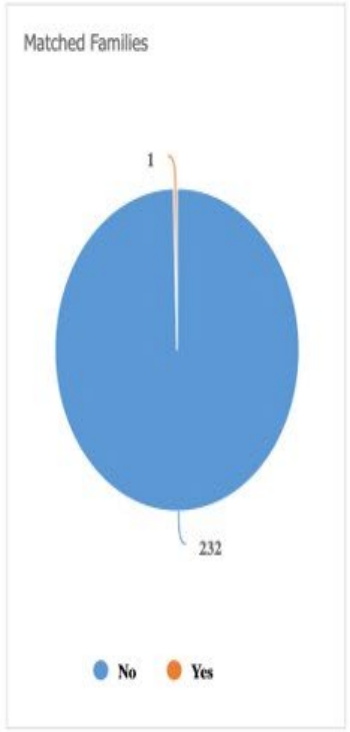


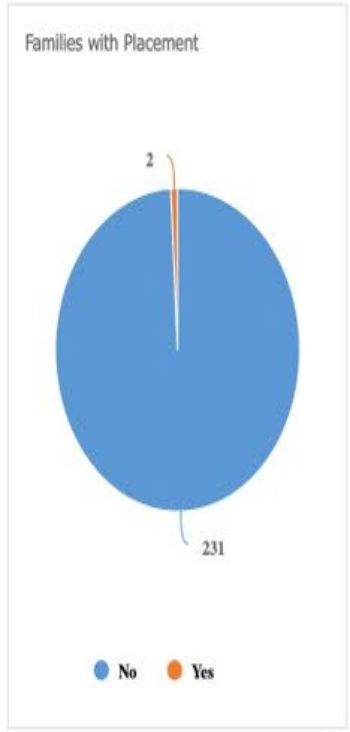
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Progress









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Powered by Adoption-Share's Family-Match Program

Next Steps

1. Contract finalization.
2. Broadcast communications to local departments.
3. Schedule kick off meetings in each region. (Western and Piedmont)

Ways to Support

1. Spread the word- email support@adoption-share.com for a downloadable flier
2. Take the survey- Let us know what recruitment looks like in your community.
3. Utilize recruitment messages that align with Virginia's kin first culture and are equipped to care for children in their home communities and prioritize supporting children's connections with their families.

adoption-share

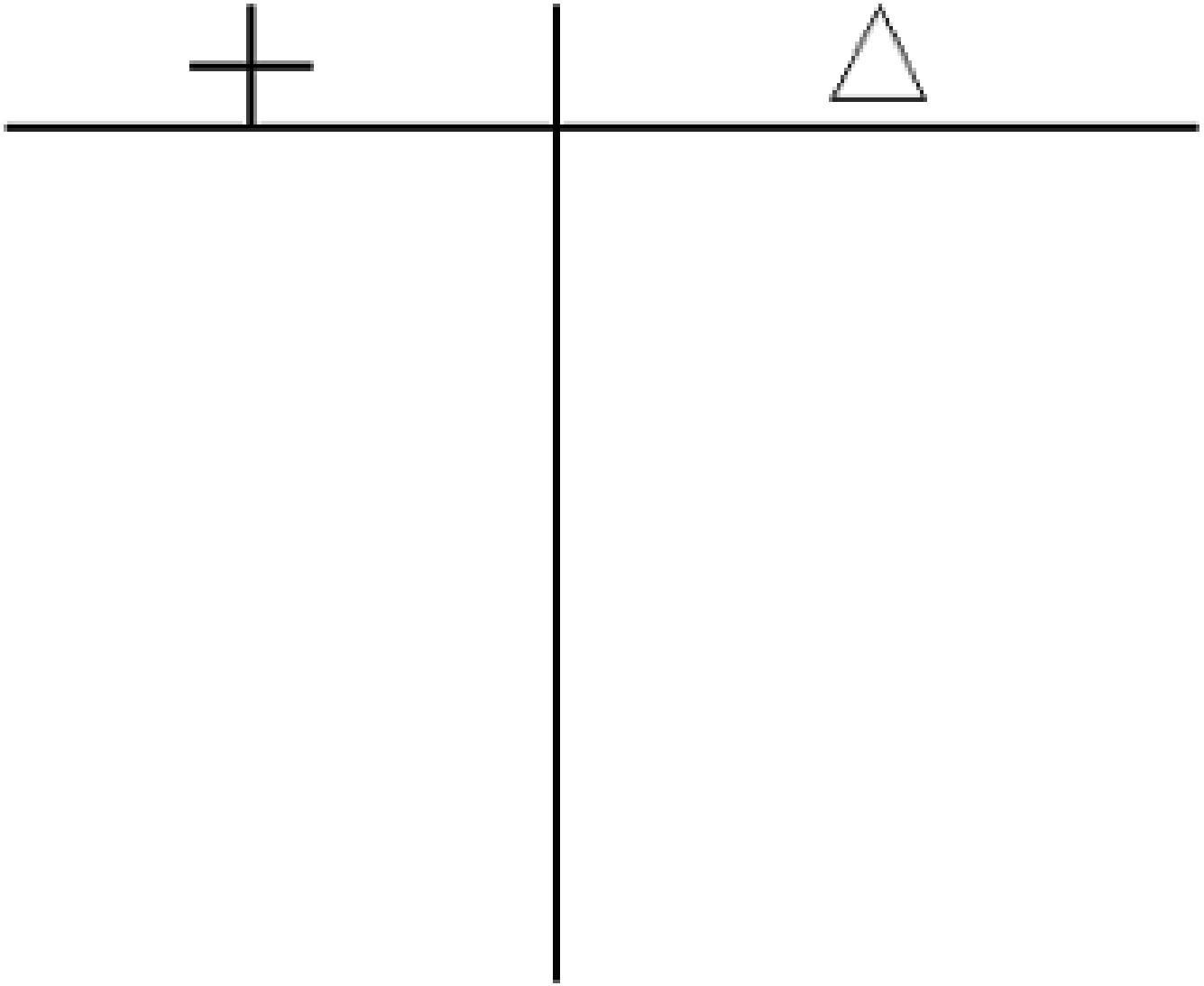
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Next CWAC Meetings



June 29, 2022
September 28, 2022

Plus / Delta




THANK
YOU

Child Welfare Advisory Council (CWAC) Meeting
March 30, 2022
Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions:
Deborah Eves provided a welcome and reviewed the CWAC charge. CWAC is a collaborative advisory group working together to achieve system outcomes related to the following areas: program, policy, training and practice, CFSP, annual plans, and CQI and capacity building through collaboration and partnership with a variety of stakeholders.

Kristin Zagar provided a welcome and introduced Nikole Cox, Director of Family Services.

Nikole Cox provided a welcome.

Child Welfare Evolution (Kristin Zagar)
VDSS is looking at how to move prevention services further upstream to better serve families. Currently, tertiary services are provided further downstream where familial circumstances are more dire. Last year, many CWAC many members participated in primary prevention planning that was submitted to the GA in June 2021. That program plan defined better aligning the VDSS system to provide primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Such a plan would more closely align VDSS' Human Services portfolio to better serve families upstream so their needs are served and they don't come to the attention of the child welfare system at all.

A video from Chapin Hall was shared.

The Family Stress Model was presented in relation to this data point: 60% of substantiated CPS cases involve neglect only. The system is historically fragmented and familial economic instability is strongly correlated with neglect. Family hardship leads to significant parental stress, drained mental resources, conflict and hostility, and less nurturing responses to children. The evolution of the child welfare system will enable more effective and efficient services for families.

Recent research related to the strong association of material hardship and CPS investigation, system involvement, and timeliness of family reunification was presented and will be provided to CWAC members. An overview of child welfare expenditures was provided, noting the largest expenditure is out of home placement. While Virginia has many concrete and economic supports in place for families, the focus needs to shift on how to align services to better serve families further upstream. Several initiatives are underway, including Thriving Families, crossing the aisles work with the Division of Family Services and the Division of Benefit Programs, and continuing a focus on kin-first culture to keep children within their support systems and communities.

Kristin introduced Commissioner Danny Avula. He provided an overview of his background and a vision for the agency. He discussed the impact and importance of social determinants of health and determining how VDSS can best serve low-income families to provide economic stability. His hope is to provide more holistic services to families that are integrated across portfolios and how that work will improve the outcomes VDSS is most concerned about.

Breakout Session, Questions asked: What are barriers to making Evolution happen? What community partners would need to be involved to ensure system shifts can happen and reflect the priorities and needs of families?
Group 1:

- Ability to share information because everyone has their own rules/regs about what can/cannot be shared. How can we make that work? With Medicaid could tap into CPS to get care managers out to homes to address concerns with health
- Share within locality and across the state also? Health plans are set up to address Social determinants of health

- Child welfare is designed to be reactive and isn't designed as prevention. We've tried to solve it at DSS but it needs to be a larger conversation on prevention level. Only agency to go into home and need to shift mindset that everyone is responsible to help family on that level
- Families have multiple hardships and handoffs are hard because of different resources. A matrix that could connect families? VPCC and 2-1-1 which are duplicated; public/private partnerships to address since those services aren't updated; Unite Virginia
- Ensure we incorporate local trusted (by citizens) partners
- See people with lived experience as community partners. Individuals who have had experience are part of the plan and others to hold us accountable for the evolution.
- Silos are problematic. Agencies work in silos and struggle with barriers. Public and private are aligned to reduce poverty rate and help folks earlier when they fall below the poverty line. Bring community mindset together.
- Housing is always a problem. Not enough housing for parents who are waiting for custody of their children. Shared housing that could help.
- Courts and others with decision making power and with financial resources.
- Faith-based organizations as the originators of child welfare and services which can be in direct conflict with public agencies. Such as giving resources that don't work with DSS requirements. They also have financial resources. More folks are willing to go to a church for help than DSS.
- Kids do better in kin, have professional and other resources and make sure this works. Make it a 3-branch initiative as Kristin suggested is great.

Group 2 (What was not already shared):

- Access to recourses, we need to have the money, would like to see CSA policy change to serve folks in early prevention to help lift them out of poverty, etc, before that report of A/N
- Need resources in staffing for early prevention.
- How are we making the community aware of the resources and the process to apply for the assistance can be cumbersome and difficult? Streamline the process to make it easier for families.
- More communication and education in the community about prevention services. Reducing stigma about receiving help from DSS, especially those who feel like increased resources will encourage increased dependence on the system
- Trying to intervene with family's early engaging hospitals, schools, doctors to educate families that we can better support them-community as whole not just DSS.
- Schools are a place where families are naturally already! 70 percent of FFX referrals come from the schools. Schools have similar access to funds as DSS does. Real opportunities to strengthen the school systems response to family needs. There are silos with schools/DS. Schools call in reports that do not meet A/N criteria, CPS hands are tied, so how do we have the schools link and connect families to the right people at DSS to assist the family. What authority do DSS have to go in when family does not ask for it.
- As a local DSS worker not understanding all the programs or services so needed training to understand what people do within your agency.
- Relationships with the educators who educate the professionals who provide the services. Relationships with universities
- Social services asks for feedback but then does not follow it. Need to listen to community input as they know their community best.
- Local DSS need to enhance their relationship with Court services, MH, community help, school and hospital social workers. Helpful for all to come to the table and work collaboratively as we interact with the same families.
- Including communities of color would be important, building bridges and trust.
- Getting data from VA Heals regarding Trauma informed care

Group 3 (What was not already shared)

- Culture shift, different way to doing the work. Change is hard.
- True interagency collaboration without fear of seeing their own internal dysfunction; Willingness to embrace need for internal/agency changes
- Legislative changes (licensing, regulatory) that may be needed
- Impact of pandemic on all of us, makes change harder.
- Develop a common language across all stakeholders.
- Low staffing at public and private agencies
- Burden of data collection on service agencies—what, why, and when we are collecting.
- Boards/Leaders need to reflect communities they are serving (race, age, gender, etc.).
- Workforce development needs to be included across all agencies.

Group 4 (What was not already shared)

- Benefits cliff-support them when they are at the bottom but they start making improvements and they get "dropped"
- "People are in poverty because they deserve to be there" ideal
- A lot less "touches" with people because of the current conditions, working on a questionnaire to give to families to try and get to the root of the families' needs
- Small communities-lack of resources
- Going through the administrative processes to get benefits, housing
- FYI vouchers are underutilized-information about getting vouchers and programs isn't getting to the appropriate people-federal reports that there vouchers not being used

Group 5 (What was not already shared)

- Understanding our families and communities
    - Expand our knowledge of what poverty is. I think mostly everyone's experience is that of middle class and understanding what is poverty would be helpful.
    - Implicit Bias... What we believe to be true about families
    - Implicit Bias- what we think the right support or intervention is
- Expanding Kinship Navigator
- Resource Inequity
    - Knowledgeable of resources and supports in the area and being knowledge of them on the front end as well
    - Community resource centers? Figuring out where hubs of resources information that would be best in each community.
- The police department (not an actual police officer but an advocate or a family support person) should be involved
- What is the history, what relationships have been strengthened or broken (in the community)? What community partners does YOUR community trust and support? Not making the decision for them. Who is the pillar in your community? Who are your community leaders? How can we build on existing strengths and get buy-in from the right people?
- Families and organizations focusing on issues such as livable wage and racial equity

Group 6 ((What was not already shared)

- Not a one and done, messaging needs to evolve and continue as well.

- Acknowledge those communities and agencies who are indeed doing this work and to promote re-thinking for some

PIP Close-out (Kristin Zagar)
Kristin announces that VA passed the PIP. Learning collaborative, work groups, putting strategies into place. The CB noticed the hard work we have done. What is our charge going forward? We are going into next round of CFSR. We are going to pass the next CFSR. Deborah shared the PIP data slides highlighting the

Legislation (Em Parente)
Em provided an overview of bills from the 2022 General Assembly session.

Passed legislation:
HB 16/SB 63 Safe Haven protections
• Provides an affirmative defense in certain criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings regarding child abuse and neglect to a parent who safely delivers a child within the first 30 days (previously 14) of the child's life to a newborn safety device located at a hospital

HB 434 Modification to criminal code to expand definition of 'intimate parts'
• Includes the chest within the definition of "intimate parts" for the purposes of criminal sexual assault (minimal implication for CPS investigations)

HB 751– Mandated reporters
• Adds practitioners of behavior analysis to the list of individuals required to report suspected adult or child abuse or neglect

HB 434/SB 316 Juvenile records pertaining to "crossover youth"
• Provides that the following are persons having a legitimate interest for the purposes of disclosing CPS records and statistical registries of DSS, LDSS, and all child welfare agencies concerning social services:
Court services unit
DJJ
Local CSB
DBHDS staff providing treatment, services, or care for a child when local agencies have entered into a formal agreement with DJJ to provide coordinated services
• Provides the formal agreements may allow the local agencies and DJJ to immediately identify children who may be receiving or who have received treatment, services, or care from the local agencies and DJJ. • Requires DJJ to develop and biennially update a model MOU setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of DJJ, DBHDS, DSS, court services units, LDSS, CSBs and behavioral health authorities regarding sharing of information derived from juvenile records for the purpose of identifying youth who may be receiving treatment

HB 1334 Definition of caretaker
• Amends the definition of "abused or neglected child" to include a child who is sexually exploited or abused by an intimate partner of the child's parent or caretaker and allows a complaint of child abuse or neglect to be deemed valid by a LDSS in such instances.
• Allows the a complaint of child abuse or neglect that alleges child trafficking to be deemed valid regardless of who the alleged abuser is or whether the alleged abuser has been identified.
• Requires a LDSS that receives a complaint or report of child abuse or neglect over which it does not have jurisdiction to forward such complaint or report to the appropriate local department, if the local department has jurisdiction in the Commonwealth.
SB 689 Foster Home Approval/Barrier Crimes
• Requires VDSS, together with relevant stakeholders, to develop recommendations regarding changes to provisions governing criminal history background checks and barrier crimes for applicants to serve as a foster or adoptive home.

• VDSS must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the House HWI and Senate Rehab and Social Services Committees by October 1, 2022

SB 577 Background checks; children's residential facilities
• Allows a person who is required to undergo a background check as a condition of employment at a children's residential facility to be employed pending the results of all background check components, provided that:
− The person has received qualifying results on the fingerprint-based criminal history background check − The person does not work in children's residential facility or any location where children placed in the facility are present
− Such employment is permitted under federal law and guidelines

HB 869 Private Adoption revised language
• Allows a circuit court, upon consideration of a petition for adoption, to immediately enter an order referring the case to a child-placing agency to conduct a visitation instead of an order referring for investigation
• Allows petitions for adoption submitted by the persons listed as the child's parents on the birth certificate to be filed and granted under the provisions governing stepparent adoptions
• Prohibits putative fathers from registering with the Birth Father Registry if 180 days have elapsed from the date the circuit court entered the final order of adoption

Passed legislation but not yet in the budget:
HB 50 - Safe haven protections
• Directs VDSS to establish a toll-free 24 hour hotline to make available to the public information about the Commonwealth's safe haven laws that provide for relinquishment of an infant, locations, and support and resources available. The bill also directs the department to undertake a campaign to increase public awareness about safe haven laws.
• Funding is not currently in the budget

SB 396 Foster care placements
• Provides that a court has the authority to review a child's status in foster care or review a foster care plan.
• Requires a foster care plan to assess the stability of proposed placements, the services provided or plans for services to be provided to address placement instability, and a description of other placement that were considered for the child.
• Required funding is only in the Senate Budget

HB 716/ SB 307 Kinship foster home denial appeal
• Creates a right of appeal for relatives who apply and are denied approval to become a kinship foster parent.
• Requires LDSS upon receiving a request from a child's relative to become a kinship foster parent, to provide the relative with forms and materials that must be submitted to become a kinship foster parent within 15 days.
• Requires LDSS, upon denial of the relative's request, to provide: − Clear and specific reason for the denial − Statement that such denial is appealable − Information regarding the procedure for filing such an appeal
• Requires VDSS and Board of Social Services to set up the appeals process and to adopt regulations regarding the timeline of such appeals.
• Decision would be appealable to the Commissioner of VDSS
• Required funding is only in the Senate Budget

HB349
• Directs LDSS to provide housing support to any person who is:
Between 18-22 yrs. old
In foster care under the custody of LDSS on or after July 1, 2022 and
Declines to participate in Fostering Futures
• The amount of the room and board portion of the maintenance payment that the person would have received under Fostering Futures program ($470)

• Partial funding is in the House Budget

Legislation to Watch (in conference, required funding is not in the budget):
HB653 Collaborative foster home approvals
• Directs VDSS to establish and implement a collaborative local board placement program to increase kinship placements and the number of locally approved foster homes.
• Requires LDSS within each region to work collaboratively to facilitate approval of kinship foster care parents and expand pool of available foster homes within and across localities
• Requires LDSS, when placing a child, to seek placement with a foster family within the locality of the local board or a nearby locality through collaborative program
• Required funding is not in the budget

Also of note:
iFoster portal/app funding is included in the House budget. The app would permit access to Virginia and locality specific resources available to individuals who are currently being served or who have been served in the foster care system, as well as professionals. Funding is for a staff person to collect all the information and maintain updated resource information.

Evidence Based Programs (Aaran Kelley)
States are able to be reimbursed through Title IV-E Prevention Services funding for evidence-based services provided to children and their families during an in-home services case. Eligible EBPs are those that are both in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse and in the state's approved Prevention Plan. Virginia's initial plan included: Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Family Functional Therapy (FFT), and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). VDSS is in the process of adding Motivational Interviewing (MI), Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT), Home Builders, and Family Check-Up.

Motivational Interviewing is less of a concrete intervention package and more of a style of approaching individuals to help them meet their personal goals. MI is well-documented to help reduce unwanted adult behaviors like substance use. MI practitioners evoke natural motivation for change by empowering those receiving treatment to be the drivers of their own change. Within the context of Family First, MI will be an option for caregivers who wish to reduce behaviors that may prevent them from engaging in their own child's health and wellbeing. Length of treatment varies widely. VDSS is interested in training frontline LDSS staff in MI to improve overall practice, specifically family engagement.

BSFT uses a structured family systems approach within their model, which was developed and tested with diverse populations (Hispanic/Spanish-speaking, Black/African American, White). Intervention components include diagnosing the dysfunctional interaction patterns that affect families from reaching their goals. BSFT is for families with youth aged 6 to 18. The length of treatment ranges on average from 12-16 weekly sessions that can run from 60-90 minutes each. Longer duration of treatment is often needed if child substance use is a factor. The setting where BSFT can be delivered to families is flexible and includes the home.

Homebuilders is an intensive family preservation service model that was designed to extend a behavioral health system's continuum of care to prevent overuse of residential or inpatient hospitalization. It is an alternative intervention to immediate child removal and a way to support family reunification and post-adoption stability. In this model, a whole team works with the family with one practitioner available 24/7. The goal of Homebuilders is to resolve immediate crises and teach skills necessary to keep families together. This EBP is for the full age range, 0-18, and typically lasts 4-6 weeks. Services are delivered in the home.

Family Check-Up is a case management model designed to strengthen a family's engagement in a more intensive treatment that follows. This EBP has also been helpful in beginning to develop positive parenting practices and enhance family motivation through an extended assessment process. Family Check-Up is for families with youth ages 2 to 17, and

length of treatment varies widely, averaging 1-4 months dependent on family's availability. This EBP may be delivered in any setting, including at home.

In order to expand the availability of evidence-based services throughout the state, VDSS has partnered with VCU through the Center for Evidence-based Partnerships (CEPVa). Utilizing Title IV-E Prevention funding, VDSS is offering opportunities for public and private providers to become trained and certified in these 7 EBPs. CEPVa developed a Request for Applications (RFA) for this training opportunity. There was a kick-off session on February 4, 2022 that included an overview of the RFA process, the new evidence-based services being added, and the call for applications. This was followed by a series of EBP Purveyor Open Houses held on 3/2/22 and 3/4/22, where the national purveyors presented more in-depth information about their EBP for providers interested in learning more and possibly applying for the training. Provider applications must include a demonstration of need for that service in the community, as well as a letter of support from the local department of social services, which reinforces the need and ensures partnership between the LDSS and the provider.

LDSS were invited to participate in the Kick-Off session and purveyor open houses to learn more. In addition, VDSS & CEPVa will be working together to develop EBP-specific trainings for LDSS workers. The current 3 EBPs (MST, FFT, & PCIT) will be available first and then align with the rollout of the others. CEPVa's Needs Assessment & Gaps Analysis (NAGA) report found that 46% of foster care entries come from jurisdictions that are covered by 13 CSBs. (note: there are 41 total CSBs vs 120 LDSS, as many CSBs cover multiple jurisdictions). VDSS partnered with DBHDS to meet with these CSBs to offer EBS training or otherwise partner with them to build capacity within their communities. VDSS is also using the CQI Communities of Practice to build capacity with LDSS. CEPVa is partnering with the National Implementation Research Network (NIRM), for additional capacity building within the field.

VDSS has added a 5-module online training series - CWSE7000 Family First in Virginia. The modules include:

- Module 1: Overview of Family First
- Module 2: Opening an In-Home Services Case: First 30 Days
- Module 3: Service Planning for In-Home Services
- Module 4: Monitoring the Delivery of In-Home Services
- Module 5: Goal Achievement and Case Closure or Case Transfer for In-Home Services

Virginia will be submitting a revised Prevention Plan to federal government in order to continue to move this work forward. The plan will include status updates of activities since initial approval and add the 4 new EBPs. CEPVa is assisting with writing up this portion to demonstrate fit of the EBPs and how we will monitor fidelity. The revised will have final approval by July 1st.

Driver's License Program (Lora Smith Hughes)
VDSS is in the process of developing ways to better assist youth in foster care with transportation through obtaining their driver's license, 40 hours of practice driving, buying a car, and car insurance. One way is through the additional Chafee funding that was provided as a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Additionally, VDSS has submitted an application to receive targeted technical assistance to build out a larger program beyond the funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The additional funds provided to states must be spent by September 30, 2022. VDSS put out a broadcast and asked agencies to submit applications to determine the number of youth that needed support in the next few months so that additional funding could be provided to agencies. There was an overwhelming response from agencies and to date 91 agencies have submitted applications totaling 1,188 youth. Agencies are encouraged to use the funding to provide the 40 hours of practice driving required to obtain a driver's license, obtaining a driver's license, paying for car insurance, and helping to purchase a vehicle.

VDSS should hear within the next couple weeks if our application for technical assistance has been accepted. If it has been accepted, we will be looking for volunteers to support VDSS in developing the program.

CFSR Round Four (Jennifer Phillips)
The Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) enable the Children's Bureau to ensure conformity with Federal child welfare requirements; to gauge the experiences of children, youth, and families receiving State child welfare services; and to assist States as they enhance their capacity to help families achieve positive outcomes. The CFSR is typically an onsite review that focuses on 18 areas of child welfare across three areas of concentration: safety, permanency and wellbeing. Each review takes approximately 2 days.

Sometimes, the families do not feel like they were heard during the process of a case. The local department has parameters that they have to work within, that may not always give them the liberty to take into consideration how the family would like to proceed, or maybe function on a timeline that is conducive to the family. The CFSR gives the family an opportunity to discuss what worked, and did not work for them. They can discuss how they felt the case process went and how they felt they were engaged. They can discuss concerns, and give us positive feedback, all with the knowledge that the information they share is confidential. We cannot put their names or any identifying information in our narratives, and only use the information they share to again, effect positive change. This also offers the family the ability to continue to engage in the process.

For the local department, the CFSR gives the agency reps, and others involved the same level of confidentiality. The staff can discuss with us what worked, and what did not. They can discuss the family's level of engagement, issues they had during the case, etc. The CFSR provides critical feedback to the agency and allows the agency to look at their overall practice, identify gaps in their service delivery and throughout the delivery of cumulative data, it also gives the agencies the ability to look at trends with in their work.

The CFSR is important to the state in several ways. The CFSR team works with all program areas to support continuous quality improvement. Quarterly, the team provides critical data of scored outcomes to the foster care, child protective services team, and in home team to show how practice is progressing statewide. Based on our data, and other critical data gathered, practice is changed through myriad initiatives at the local level. The initiatives are small and incremental changes in the areas of safety, permanency and wellbeing, the keystone of the CFSR.

What is included in the statewide assessment is how we are performing in these seven systemic factors. CB uses information states submit in the Statewide Assessment to evaluate the routine statewide functioning of these factors. States are required to provide an assessment of whether each systemic factor item is functioning based on recent and relevant data and information. This requires that states provide more than a description of the systemic factor item and applicable state regulations, programs, or policy. The systemic factors include:

1. Statewide Child Welfare Information System: Does the state have a statewide information system that is fully functional and supportive of gathering necessary data?
2. Case Review System: The State provides a process that ensures that each child has a written case plan that includes the required provisions such as, the process for a periodic review of the status of each child, a process that ensures that each child in foster care has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body, a process for termination of parental rights proceedings and a process for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified any review or hearing held with respect to the child. (Item 29)
3. Quality Assurance System : The State has developed and implemented standards for children in foster care and is operating an identifiable quality assurance system
4. Staff and Provider Training: The State is operating a staff development and training, provides for ongoing training for staff, provides training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance.
5. Service Array and Resource Development: The State has in place an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families, ensure that services are accessible to families and can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families

6. Agency Responsiveness to the Community: the State engages in ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and develops Annual Progress and Services Reports
7. Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention: The State has implemented standards for foster family homes and child care institutions that are in accord with recommended national standards that comply with Federal requirements for criminal background clearances, and has in place a process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families and has in place a process for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources.

The CFSR is broken down in to three categories, Safety, Permanency and Wellbeing.
Safety Outcome one focuses on how children are protected from abuse and neglect. Safety Outcome one covers Item one and focuses on immediate timeliness of contact in reports of child maltreatment, i.e., did the agency respond to calls about child maltreatment in a timely manner, and if they did not were the circumstances beyond the agencies control.

Safety Outcome two focuses on Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate. This category covers items two and three, and focuses services in the home to protect children from further abuse and to prevent entry into foster care, or re-entry into foster care and risk and safety assessments.

The Permanency sections cover items 4-11 and focus on the child's permanency, stability in the foster care setting (or how often did the child experience a move during the PUR), permanency goal for the child (is it adequate to the child's needs and was it made timely), and achievement of the goal for the child (or did the child achieve the permanency goal in satisfaction with the guidelines).

Jen shared that Round four CFSR is on the horizon, but there is no date to share yet. Round four will be state led, similar to what it was before. There will be six months to do the review, and VDSS will be engaging stakeholders for input, focusing on the seven systemic factors. A survey has been distributed on that, and there will be additional surveys to gather data. Based on that data, there may be focus groups to assist in coordinating this effort.

Parent Council (Garrett Jones)
The Division of Family Services believes parents lived expertise in the child welfare system should have a mechanism to provide meaningful and authentic input at the state level. Other states have created Parent Advisory Councils and committees, and with support from Casey Family Programs and technical assistance from the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, VDSS created a Parent Advisory Council in Virginia. In agreement with CWAC's recommendations VDSS provides honorariums for the work or parents, and if needed, also pay for child care and/or travel for Council events. The Council was created with the support of Casey Family Programs and the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, with planning beginning January 2021, including four parents on the planning committee. The four parents helped develop documents and materials for council creation and recruitment. Parents on our planning committee were asked to join the Council and all said yes.

Garrett introduced Alisa Thornton. She spoke to interest in joining the council and introduced the Council's Mission statement, which aligns with VDSS's Mission and Vision. *DFS Parent Advisory Council Mission statement: The Council will collaborate with the Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Family Services to equitably shape policies and practices that promote positive change and enable all families to thrive.*

Parent Council activities have included: ARPA substance misuse and suicide prevention project, a foster parent recruitment video, and domestic violence action team project planning.

Garrett posed a collective thinking question to the group: 'How can your agency help to ensure that children who enter foster care remain connected to their families and natural support networks?'

Foster Parent Recruitment – Faster Families Highway to Recruitment (Thea Ramirez)
Adoption Share is leveraging technology to achieve permanency. Reunification is a goal. Family Match is an adoption matching platform piloted in Virginia. Transformative educational experience was understanding resource families left due to interest in adopting. That got the Adoption Share team thinking about strengthening the pool of resource families to promote reunification. Natural supports in the community are critical to children. The goal is to have a tool to recruit and retain resource families. The first bottleneck in the onboarding process is at the point of recruitment and licensing homes. Step one Recruit campaigns; step two interested families will go into a 'funnel' to determine qualified families ready for children. Using predictive analytics to keep families moving forward in the process. Families complete the six-step recruitment portal; child welfare workers can recruit from qualified families and prioritize those most compatible with children in need of homes. Families complete a six-step recruitment portal: introduction, goals and desires, assessment, photos, and training. Screenshots of the portal were shared, showing the progress of families in the recruitment process, including their region. An additional screenshot was shared to show examples of data available in the portal and how the data allows for fine tuning marketing strategies and communication plans to recruit qualified families.

Next steps include: contract finalization, communication with LDSS, kick-off meetings with regions. Implementation will begin in the Western and Piedmont regions onboarded by July 1. The rest of the regions by the end of the calendar year. CWAC members can support this initiative through:

- Spreading the word about the Faster Families Recruitment Highway
- Having links to the portal on community partner websites
- Completing the LDSS survey regarding community recruitment
- Aligning messaging around the importance of kin-first culture in Virginia

For more info about Faster Families Recruitment Highway email: thea@adoption-share.com

Upcoming Meetings
June 29, 2022
September 28, 2022

Plus/Deltas (Deborah Eves)
Plus
Wealth of information provided
Very informative and well-organized meeting!
The content was very relevant and timely
Really interesting stuff today! hearing the vision for economic supports to families; the new Adoption Share program and the Parent Council; the new EBPs for Family First - I learned a lot today!
Really appreciated how much information was packed into this session, as well as the time for providing input
Lived expertise! Thanks again for joining us, Alisa!
So excited about Portal and how it will change the landscape of resource family moving forward!! Great information today
Well organized, tightly run and moderated, lots of subject matter experts and leaders available for questions
The response of LDSS and young people who want the license technical assistance is remarkable.
I liked the breakout room discussions

Delta
Not a ton of opportunity to vision or problem solve together on specific things
More space to process