Permanency in Illinois

- Illinois is one of the lowest performing states as it pertains to permanency
- Median length of stay in foster care in Illinois is 32.7 months (as of 09-30-15*)
- Cases open after 36 months
  - African American – 44%
  - Hispanic – 34%
  - White – 31%

*Data Source: Fostering Court Improvement
http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/6/DCFSRegion/Northern/
Children of Color in Child Welfare

- Higher occurrence of placement changes
- Stay in the system longer
- Less likely to be adopted
- Less likely to be reunified
- Receive fewer supports


Northern Region PEP Vision

Improve permanency outcomes and reduce disproportionality and disparity of children of color in foster care in partnership with the communities.
Disproportionality: The over or underrepresentation of a particular group in a program or system.

Disparity: The differences observed in treatment, outcomes, resources and services between two or more groups.

Equality: Everyone should be treated in exactly the same way.

Equity: Everyone should be treated in ways that meet their specific needs so they have a fair opportunity to achieve their potential.

PEP Regional Goals:
- Improve remain home permanency outcomes
- Improve return home permanency outcomes
- Improve adoption/guardianship permanency outcomes
- Reduce disproportionality and disparate outcomes of African American and Hispanic youth in foster care
Agencies
Caregivers
Court
Schools
DCFS
Law Enforcement
Churches
Action Team
Stakeholders

PEP History

- Partnership with DCFS African American Advisory Council, Illinois African American Family Commission, Universities*
- Focus groups with stakeholders, town hall meetings, community forums, and regional symposiums
- Anti-racism training for DCFS staff and communities
- Partner with community to form and sustain action teams co-led by DCFS and community representative

*Partnership Universities include Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville), Northern Illinois University, and University of Illinois at Chicago.
Youth in Foster Care in Kankakee County

- How many are there?
- How old are they?
- Where do they live?
- What are their permanency goals?

Youth Entering Foster Care in Kankakee County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-13</td>
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<td>14-17</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
Number of Youth in Foster Care in Kankakee County

- 93 Total Children
- 39 Female (42%)
- 54 Male (58%)

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18

Age of Youth in Foster Care in Kankakee County

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
Where the Children Live

- Foster/Relative homes – 61
- Residential – 11
- Other Institutions – 8
- Independent Living – 8
- Other Care – 6

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18

Permanency Goals of Youth in Care in Kankakee County

- Foster Care is meant to be temporary, not permanent.
- The permanency goals for foster care children are:
  - Return Home 53%
  - Adoption and Guardianship 13%
  - Independence 19%
  - Other 5%

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
Permanency Goals for Youth in Care

Kankakee Permanency Goals by Race (94 Youth)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permanency Goals</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption/TPR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Goals</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth Exiting Foster Care in Kankakee County

Kankakee Permanent Placement Type (20 Youth Exit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement Type</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized Guardianship</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
Allegation Substantiation Process

- Hotline Report – hotline decides whether to accept a report of abuse or neglect based on DCFS guidelines
- Investigation – each report is investigated for evidence of abuse and or neglect and risk of danger in the home
- Unfounded Allegation – no credible evidence of abuse or neglect
- Indicated Allegation – found credible evidence of abuse or neglect, report is substantiated

Sources of Reports

- Law Enforcement (205) and School Personnel (194) filed the highest number of reports
- School Personnel (88%), DCFS Personnel (86%), and Relative/Neighbor (93%) had the highest percent of unfounded reports within each group’s total number of reports
Sources of Reports

Kankakee Source of Reports

Abuse and Neglect Allegations

- Total Allegations Reported: 1,486
- Total Indicated Harms: 209
- Abuse Allegations: 557
  - Indicated Abuse Harms: 87 (24%)
- Neglect Allegations: 929
  - Indicated Neglect Harms: 122 (34%)
Top Indicated Allegations in Kankakee County

- Indicated Abuse Category
  - Substantial risk of injury/Substantial risk of sexual injury: 40
  - 34 indicated allegations of substantial risk of sexual injury
  - Sexual abuse: 23
  - Physical abuse: 65

- Indicated Neglect Category
  - Blatant disregard: 62
  - 45 indicated allegations of blatant disregard - substantial risk of injury
  - Lack of supervision: 38
  - Environmental neglect: 11
  - Lack of Health: 11

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18

Disproportionality

- Disproportionality in child welfare refers to differences in the percentage of children of a certain racial / ethnic group in the population when compared to the percentage of the children of the same group in the child welfare system
Disproportionality

• African American children comprise only 18.9% of the total youth population in Kankakee County, but 50% of youth are in the foster care

• Hispanic youth are less represented in the foster care system (4.3%) than they are in the total youth population in in Kankakee County (16%)
Together ...

... We Can

Make a Difference!