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/IIDCFSPregion/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
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 McHENRY COUNTY

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

YOUTH ENTERING FOSTER CARE IN McHENRY COUNTY

McHenry Age and Race Youth Entering Care (50)

- African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Other

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
NUMBER OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE IN MCHENRY COUNTY

- 119 Total Children
- 53 Female (45%)
- 66 Male (55%)

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

AGE OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE IN MCHENRY COUNTY

Data Source: DCFS Quality Assurance, 07/01/17 – 06/30/18
WHERE THE CHILDREN LIVE

- Foster/Relative homes – 94
- Residential – 9
- Other Institutions – 11
- Independent Living – 2
- Other Care – 3

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

PERMANENCY GOALS OF YOUTH IN CARE IN McHENRY COUNTY

- Foster Care is meant to be temporary, not permanent.
- The permanency goals for foster care children are:
  - Return Home 45%
  - Adoption and Guardianship 20%
  - Independence 11%
  - Other 1%
PERMANENCY GOALS FOR YOUTH IN CARE

McHenry Permanency Goals by Race (119 Youth)

- Adoption/TPR
- Guardianship
- Independence
- Missing Goals
- Other
- Reunification

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

YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE IN MCHenry COUNTY

McHenry Permanent Placement Type (44 Youth Exit)

- Adoption
- Reunification
- Subsidized Guardianship

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 (656) and School Personnel (418) filed the highest number of reports
- School Personnel (88%) and Relative/Neighbor (86%) had the highest percent of unfounded reports within each group’s total number of reports
ABUSE AND NEGLECT ALLEGATIONS

- Total Allegations Reported: 2,879
- Indicated Allegations: 670 (23.3%)
- Abuse Allegations: 965
  - Indicated Abuse Harms: 153 (15.9%)
- Neglect Allegations: 1,914
  - Indicated Neglect Harms: 517 (27%)

NOTE: there are more than 2x more neglect cases indicated than abuse cases
TOP INDICATED ALLEGATIONS IN MCHENRY COUNTY

- Indicated Abuse Category
  - Substantial risk of injury/Substantial risk of sexual injury 68
  - Sexual abuse 44
  - Physical abuse 35

- Indicated Neglect Category
  - Blatant disregard 390
  - 347 indicated allegations of blatant disregard - substantial risk of injury
  - Lack of supervision 98
  - Environmental neglect 27

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 1.7% of the total youth population in McHenry County, but 4.2% of youth are in the foster care.

- Hispanic youth are less represented in the foster care system (18.6%) than they are in the total youth population in McHenry County (8.4%).
Together ...
... We Can

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!