Child Welfare in Washington

Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary
DSHS Children’s Administration
Washington State Child Welfare System

• DSHS Children’s Administration is responsible for child welfare in Washington
• State operated system
• Operates in compliance with state and federal law
• Mandated by law to become involved in families’ lives only when necessary to keep children safe from abuse and neglect
• Mission is to protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect and achieve safe permanency as quickly as possible for children who must be placed away from their families
Funding Supports Intervention

**Funding for Staffing and Services**

2,500 FTEs
- CPS: Investigation & FAR
- Out-of-Home: CFWS & Adoption
- In-Home: FVS & FRS
- Licensing

**Placement & Permanency Resources**
- Foster Care & BRS
- Relative Care
- Adoption Support

**EBPs to Increase Parenting Capacity**
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- HomeBuilders
- Incredible Years
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Promoting First Relationships
- SafeCare
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)

**Funding for State and Federal Programs**

- **State Funding**
  - 57.2%  
  - $343.7 million

- **Federal Funding**
  - 42.7%  
  - $256.2 million

- **Federal CAPTA Funding**
  - 0.1%  
  - $535,000
Washington Overview CY 2015

Total Requests for Intervention
- TOTAL = 108,328

CPS Reports of Abuse/Neglect
- TOTAL = 95,288  (13,040 Non-CPS Requests)

CPS Reports Screened-In
- TOTAL = 40,460  (54,828 Screened Out)
  - 59,343 Children Require Face-to-Face Response

Investigations
- TOTAL = 26,913

FAR
- TOTAL = 13,547

Open for Services
- TOTAL = 20,891

Children Placed
- TOTAL = 6,227

Children Placed Exits:
- 6,173 Exits
  - 3,646 Reunifications
  - 1,468 Adoptions
  - 466 Guardianships
  - 608 Other Exits
CPS Reports Requiring Face-to-Face Response by Year
Monthly View Shows Seasonality

Increasing Trends
Reports of child abuse (all CPS intakes)
- 27 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015

Intakes screened in for a face-to-face CPS response
- 48 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015
CPS Reports Requiring 24-Hour Response by Year

Monthly View Shows Seasonality

Increasing Trends
Emergent intakes screened in for a response within 24 hours
- 156 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015
CPS-FAR (Family Assessment Response) Pathway

Most FAR Families Have Abuse or Neglect History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January - June</th>
<th>July - December</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COUNT</td>
<td>PROPORTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No prior intakes</strong></td>
<td>176</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>One prior abuse</strong></td>
<td>130</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Two plus prior abuse</strong></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>One or two prior neglect</strong></td>
<td>393</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Three plus prior neglect</strong></td>
<td>79</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missing entries</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CPS Families Average More than One Risk Factor

Mean Family Risk Score At First Intake

Family Risk Score is the sum of any occurrence of the following 6 factors:
1. Parent criminal justice system involvement
2. Parent mental illness
3. Parent substance abuse
4. Family economic stress
5. Domestic violence
6. Family homelessness
Families with Multiple Risk Factors Have Increased Risk Score:

- Is associated with increased recurrence of maltreatment.
- Recurrence rate was 5.3 percent in Jan-Mar 2010, increasing to 10.4 percent in Jan-Mar 2014.

**Note:** The sum of parental substance abuse, mental illness, criminality, economic stress, domestic violence, and homelessness, multiplied by 5 for ease of trend comparison.
Families with More Risk Factors Have Significantly Higher Negative Outcomes

Families with higher family risk scores at the initial intake experience higher rates of negative outcomes – new founded allegations or placements within one year of case closure.

6 Risk Factors:
1. Parent criminal justice system involvement
2. Parent mental illness
3. Parent substance abuse
4. Family economic stress
5. Domestic violence
6. Family homelessness

Risk factors for families are determined at CPS intake and investigation

• Families are tracked for a period of one year after case closure, using administrative data.