



Improving the Quality of Services For Children and Families

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Children and Family Services

These are services provided to children who:

- are at -risk of abuse or neglect
- have been adjudicated a Child in Need of Assistance
- are at risk of becoming a delinquent
- have been adjudicated delinquent
- are transitioning from the foster care system into adulthood



Guiding Principles

- Children are safe
- Children grow up in families
- Families can rely upon community support
- Parents gain the skills to effectively support their children
- Children gain life skills
- Foster care is not a place for children to grow up



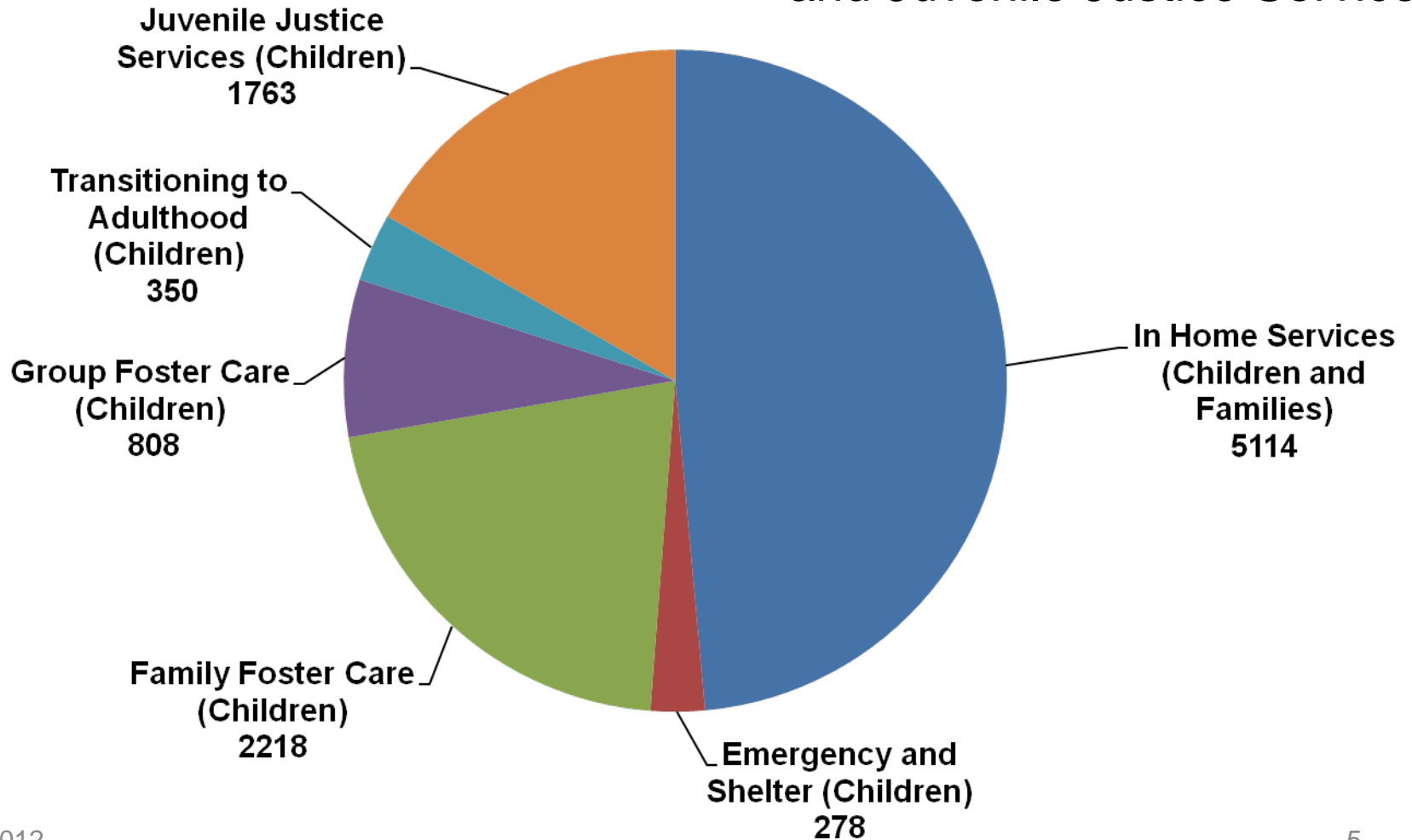
Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice Numbers

- SFY 2011, 11,961 children were confirmed or found to be the victims of child abuse or neglect. Over 80% were victims of denial of critical care or neglect and over 50% are age 5 or younger.
- SFY11, 850 adoptions finalized (99% qualify for an adoption subsidy)
- Annually, over 20,000 new youth are referred to Juvenile Court Services (JCS) each year and court petitions occur in approximately 4,753 of the cases.



Iowa Department of Human Services

SFY 11: Monthly Average Children/Families receiving Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services





Budget

- SFY 13 Governor budget recommendation: \$79,941,095
- As part of receiving matching Federal funding, each state undergoes a federal review. (Child and Family Service Review, CFSR)
- Establishes performance standards in areas of Safety, Permanency and Child Well-being.



Expectations for Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice System

- Statewide 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



Expectations for Family Outcomes

- Children are protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children remain safely in their own homes, when possible and appropriate.
- Children in care experience permanency and stability in living conditions.
- Children in care experience continuity of family relationships and connections are preserved.
- Families' capacity to provide for their children is enhanced.
- Children receive services to meet their educational needs
- Children receive services to meet their physical, including dental, and mental health needs.



Key Strategies to Improve Safety, Permanency, and Well Being

- Alignment of provider service delivery contracts with CFSR outcomes and performance measures
- Focus on caseworker visits
- Use of Family Team Decision-Making Meetings and Family Interaction
- Strong private/public partnership
- Use of data driven practice
- Align all activities with Mental health redesign



Key Considerations for Future Planning

- Strategies to Address Gaps in the Current Service Array
 - Therapeutic Foster Care
 - Subsidized Guardianship
 - Foster Care to 21
 - Implementation of the MH Redesign for CW children including work to bring out of state children home to Iowa
- Provider Reimbursement Rates
- Juvenile Justice Program Needs



Key Considerations cont'd

- Expansion to statewide implementation of current regional projects
 - Statewide Implementation of the Parent Partner Program
 - Expansion of the AMP (A Support group of previous and current foster/adoptive youth) effort
- Continued development of the strong private/public partnership efforts in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Increase data informed decision making practices
- Continued work on the child abuse registry to balance child safety with due process rights
- Continue work toward “differential response”