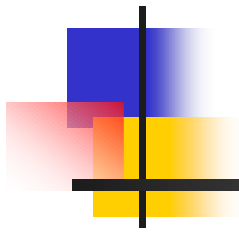


# Child Welfare Budget Update



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Iowa Department of Human Services  
Division of Child and Family Services  
February 22, 2007



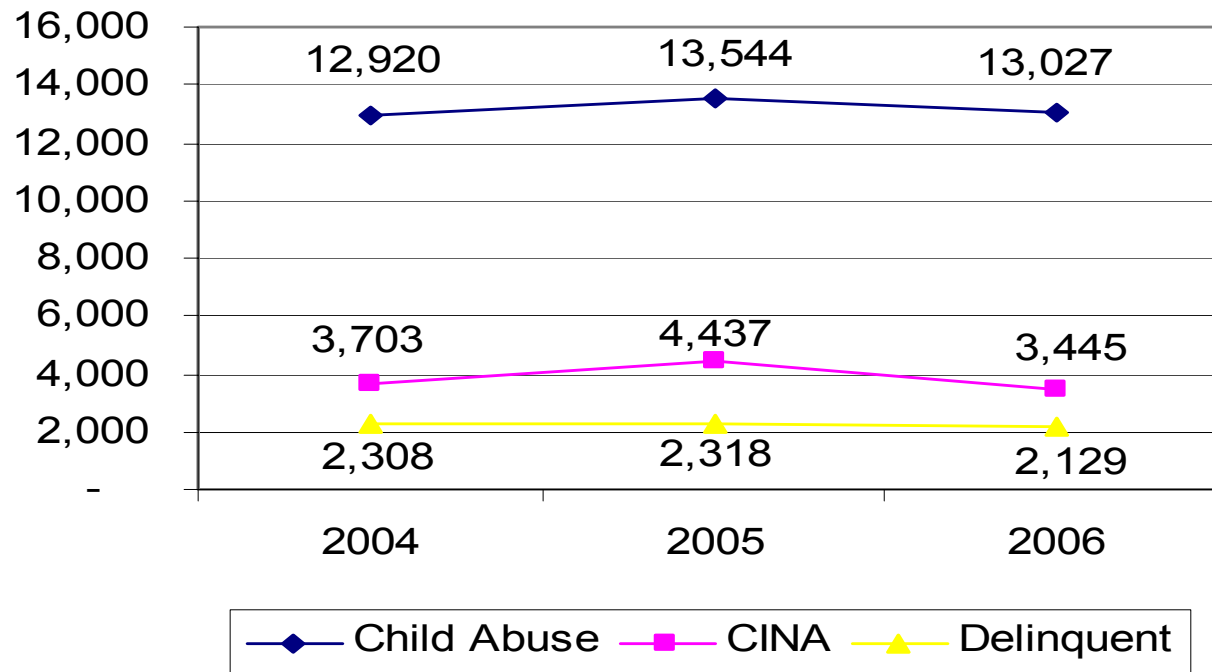
# Iowa Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice System

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- Child Welfare (CW)
  - DHS assesses child abuse reports and provides on-going services to abused/neglected children
  - DHS partners with community to strengthen vulnerable families at risk of abuse
  - DHS funds array of CW services
  - Results – Safety, permanency, child/family well-being
- Juvenile Justice (JJ)
  - Juvenile Court Services (JCS) manages youth referred for delinquency
  - DHS funds array of JJ services
  - Results – Public safety, accountability, rehabilitation

# Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice Population

**Child Abuse Victims, CINA and Delinquency Adjudications**





# Framework for Improvement

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- May 2003 Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
  - Focused on outcomes and critical “systemic factors”
  - Identified both strengths and areas needing improvement
- Spring 2003 state legislation requiring redesign of child welfare
  - Outcome based system focused on safety, permanency, child & family well-being
  - \$10 M reduction in funding



# Child Welfare Outcomes

<b>Federal Outcome</b>	<b>May 2003</b>	<b>December 2006</b>	<b>National Standard</b>	<b>National Median</b>
Repeat Maltreatment	88.8%	89.9%	93.9%	93.4%
Safety in Foster Care	99.1%	<b>99.8%</b>	99.43%	99.58%
Timely Reunification	<b>81%</b>	53.1%	76.2%	71%
Foster Care Re-entry	75%	88.9%	91.4%	91.1%
Foster Care Stability	<b>88.0%</b>	84.9%	86.7%	83.9%
Timely Adoption	<b>49%</b>	<b>47%</b>	32%	29.1%



## Child Welfare Outcomes cont.

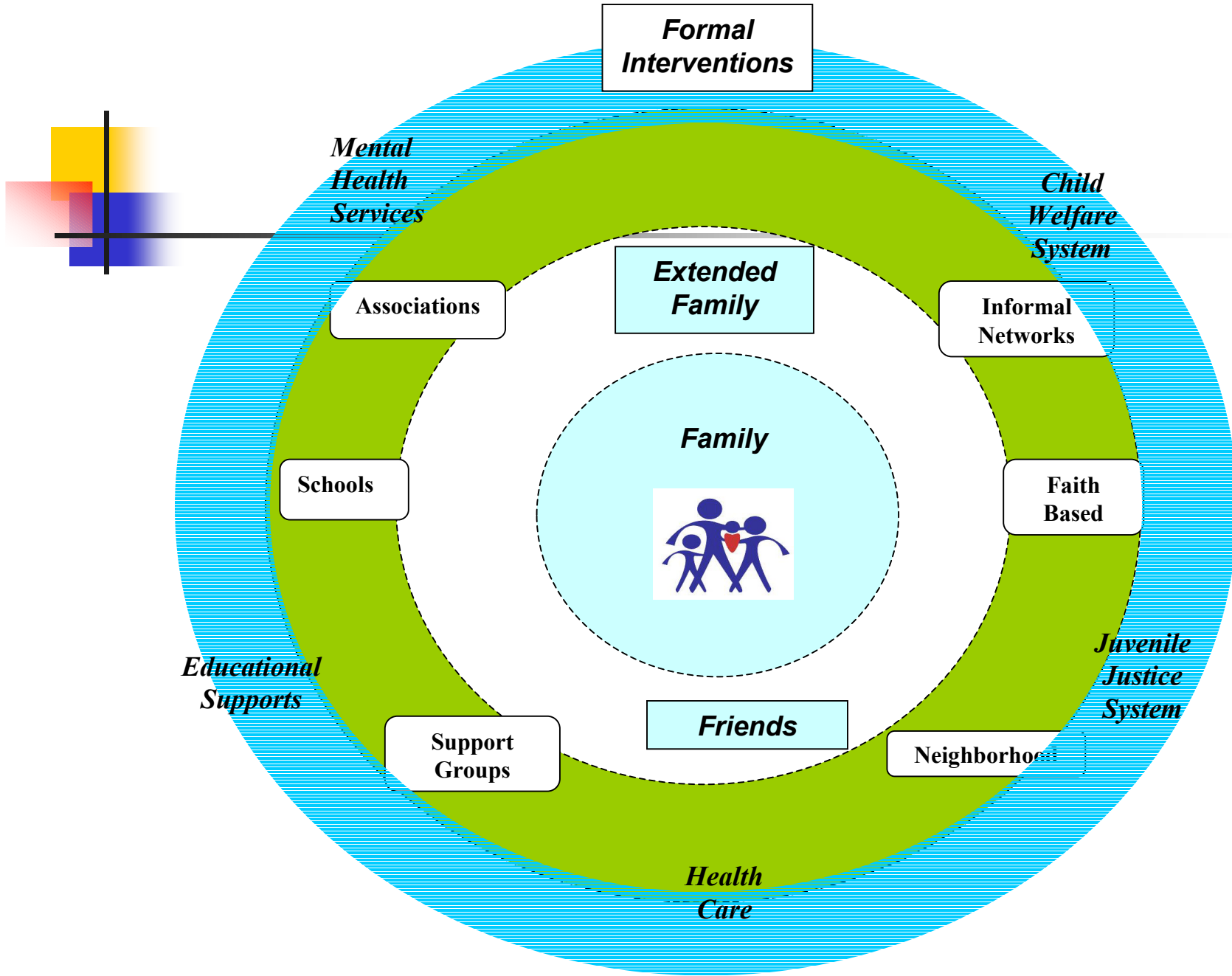
<b>Federal Outcome</b>	<b>May 2003</b>	<b>October 2006</b>	<b>National Standard</b>
Monthly Visits with Children	10%	52%	90/95%
Monthly Visits with Parents	23%	26%	90/95%
Family Engagement in Case Planning	66%	83%	90/95%
Assessing Child and Family Needs	72%	<b>90%</b>	90/95%
Preserving Family Connections	79%	88%	90/95%



## Major Strategies to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes

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- Strengthening family connections to the community, and strengthening community supports for vulnerable families
- Strengthening our practice with children and families served in the child welfare system
- Strengthening the array of services for children and families served by the child welfare system
- Partnerships with Juvenile Court, other child-serving systems, community and providers







## Strengthening family connections to community and community supports for vulnerable families . . .

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- Expanded Community Partnerships for Protecting Children from 38 counties to 97 counties
  - Neighborhood support networks, including Parents as Partners
  - Shared decision-making groups
  - Partnerships with domestic violence and substance abuse
- Implemented Community Care to provide voluntary free counseling or other family-support services to lower risk families – served over 1,900 families during 2006



## Strengthening DHS practice with children and families served in the child welfare system

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- Standardized assessments to identify children most at risk for abuse based on child abuse finding, risk assessment and age.
  - 46% of child abuse victims are under age 6.
- DHS assigns case manager & opens child welfare care for:
  - Children age 0 to 5 with founded abuse, regardless of risk assessment level
  - Children age 6 and older with founded abuse, and moderate or high risk (lower risk referred to Community Care contractor)
- Result has been more consistent practice across the state, and increase in % of caseload that are under age 6 from 34% in 2004 to 40% in 2006.



## Strengthening DHS practice cont.

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- Increased face-to-face visits with children from 10% (May 2003) of cases to 52% (October 2006)
  - CFSR Round 1 standard was 90% of all children have monthly visits; Round 2 standard will be 95%
  - Federal Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 requires states to establish standard for monthly visits for children in foster care by 10-1-07, submit annual data on % of children in foster care receiving monthly visits, and outline steps to ensure that 90% of children in foster care receive monthly caseworker visits by 10-1-11.
  - Federal Safety and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006 requires workers to visit children placed out-of-state at least once every 6 months.



## Strengthening DHS practice cont.

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- Implemented family team meetings to improve family engagement
- Implemented quality assurance and improvement teams to monitor outcomes and implement best practice
- Established Child Welfare Stakeholder Panel jointly chaired by DHS and Court to better engage stakeholders and improve collaboration
- Published child welfare outcomes on DHS website to strengthen focus on public accountability
- Recently contracted with Elevate youth group to provide input on policy and practice and include youth voice in staff training



## Strengthening CW Service Array - Goals

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- More individualized services and supports based on child and family needs
- Focus on family, not just child
- Stronger focus on outcomes
- Increased provider flexibility
- Financial incentives for outcomes
- Service availability in all 99 counties
- Build family connections to community supports



## Strengthening CW Service Array cont.

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- Community Care contract for lower risk families
- Pilot projects in Des Moines and Sioux City to address racial disparities in child welfare outcomes
- Resource Family Recruitment and Support statewide contract
- Multidimensional Treatment Level Foster Care pilot for children discharging from PMIC



## Strengthening CW Service Array cont.

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- July 1, 2006 – Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) and Medicaid for Independent Young Adults (MIYA)
- February 1, 2007 – implemented subsidized guardianship program for older youth in care
- March 1, 2007 – Adding adoption support services to Resource Family Recruitment and Retention contract



## Strengthening CW Service Array cont.

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- Currently redesigning family centered services
  - Drug testing procurement spring 2007, contracts July 2007
  - Safety Plan and Safety/Risk/Permanency Services procurement March 2007; projected contracts October 2007
  - Legal fees for Permanency contracts January 2008
  - Family team meetings contracts January 2008





## Strengthening CW Service Array cont.

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- Parents as Partners pilot to provide peer support for parents involved in child welfare system
- 12-15-06 Emergency Services Plan – recommends reinvesting \$388,900 from unused shelter beds into emergency service alternatives (e.g., crisis intervention)
- Group care and supervised apartment living services procurements - tentative schedule of summer 2007 procurement, contracts January 2008
- 7-1-07 Toledo study group recommendations for CINA boys

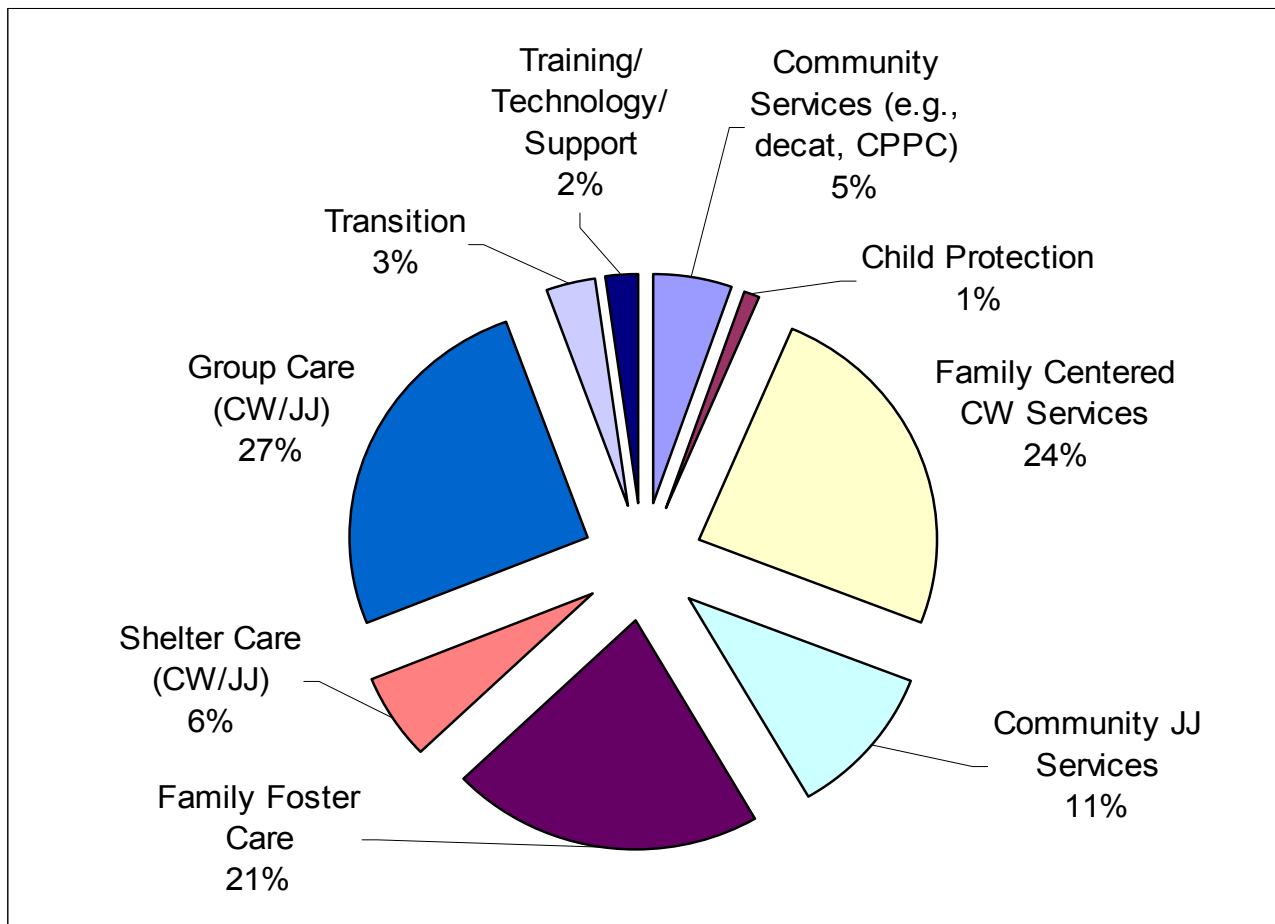


# Strengthening Service Array in Related Systems

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- Behavioral Health Care
  - Change from Medicaid Rehabilitative Treatment Services to Remedial Services
  - Implementation of Children's Mental Health Waiver
  - Voluntary placements into psychiatric medical institutions for children (PMIC)
- Juvenile Justice
  - \$2.9 M transfer from family centered services to Juvenile Court Services for graduated sanction programs for youth adjudicated delinquent

# FY 2008 Child and Family Services Budget Request -- \$152.2 M total (\$94.7 M state)





## CW/JJ Challenges and Opportunities cont.

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- Group care waiting list (-)
- Shelter are shorter lengths of stay and reduced utilization (+)
- Greater flexibility & more outcomes focused CW/JJ services post delinking with Medicaid (+)
- Higher federal expectations regarding outcomes and performance (+)
- High caseloads (-)
- Concerns regarding funding adequacy (-)



## Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice (CW/JJ) Challenges and Opportunities

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- Availability of Medicaid remedial services (RSP) to all Medicaid eligible children (+)
- Advent of Children's Mental Health (CMH) waiver (+)
- Limited availability of behavioral/mental health services for non-Medicaid eligible children (-)
- Waiting list for CMH waiver (-)



# Recommendations

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## Challenge/Opportunities

- Greater flex & outcome focus in CW/JJ services (+)
- Shorter shelter care LOS & reduced utilization (+)
- Some youth wait over 30 days for group care (-)
- High federal expectations (+)
- High caseloads & concerns regarding funding adequacy (-)

## Recommendations

- Focus investments of new funds on community based services, reducing caseloads, and incentives for outcomes
- Fund growth in PAL and MIYA
- Consider expanding emergency services



# Recommendations

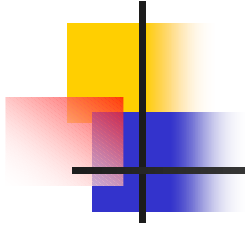
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## Challenges & Opportunities

- Limited mental health services for non-Medicaid kids (-)
- Remedial services (+)
- CMH waiver (+)
- CMH waiting list (-)

## Recommendations

- Expand CMH waiver
- Consider other investments in behavioral health services
- “Stay the course” on custody relinquishment



In 2008 and 2009, Iowa's child welfare system will again be measured against the federal Child and Family Service Review criteria . . .