

# Child and Family Services



Briefing for the Health and Human  
Services Appropriation  
Subcommittee

February 3, 2005



# Children Served

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- Children who need protection from abuse or neglect
- Children who are adjudicated child in need of assistance (CINA)
- Youth who have committed a delinquent act



# Child Welfare Demand

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- Calendar 2003 child abuse/neglect
  - Assessments – 25,500
  - Child abuse/neglect victims – 14,674
- Ages of child abuse/neglect victims
  - 0 to 5 years – 47%
  - 6 to 11 years – 31%
  - 12 to 15 year – 17%
  - 16 and older – 5%
- Type of abuse
  - Denial of critical care – 61%
  - Physical abuse – 13%
  - Sexual abuse – 6%
  - Drug related – 10%



# Outcomes

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- Safety for kids
- Permanency
- Well-being
- Academic preparation and skill development
- Rehabilitation for juvenile offenders
- Safety for the community



# Services Provided

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- Respond to reports of abuse and neglect
- Early intervention services for at-risk children (e.g., decaat, community care)
- Family preservation services to serve abused/neglected children safely at home
- Graduated sanction programs to serve delinquent youth who are low to moderate risk in the community
- Out-of-home placement services for children who cannot be served safely at home
- Permanency services
- Transition service for youth aging out of foster care



# Critical Partners

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- Medicaid and public health systems for children's physical and mental health needs
- Substance abuse system for treatment needs of children and parents
- Schools and special education systems to address children's educational needs
- Juvenile Courts
- Private providers
- Communities to provide supports to vulnerable children and families



# Funding Sources

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- State general funds
- Tobacco funds
- Title IV-E Foster Care & Adoption Assistance
- Title IV-B Child Welfare Services
- Medicaid
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Recoveries -- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), parental income



# Children Served & Total Expenditures

Program	FY 04\$ (actual)	FY 04 cases (actual)	FY 05 \$ (budget)	FY 05 cases (budget)	FY 06 \$ (budget)	FY 06 cases (budget)
Family Centered	\$40,180,533	6,997	\$42,747,054	7,068	\$44,037,024	7,068
Family Foster Care	\$31,859,073	2,740	\$31,875,625	2,783	\$33,065,368	2,783
Shelter	\$11,862,197	386	\$8,357,878	273	\$8,608,614	273
Group Care	\$46,914,076	1,059	\$53,339,969	1,182	\$54,385,114	1,182
Independent Living	\$1,693,674	78	\$1,820,481	84	\$1,869,227	84
Graduated Sanctions	\$7,929,639	5,708	\$8,409,059	6,053	\$8,409,059	6,053
Total	\$140,439,192	16,968	\$146,550,066	17,443	\$150,374,406	17,443





# FY 06 Budget Offers

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- 3% cost-of-living increase for providers
- Cost-of-living increase for foster and adoptive families
- Funding for growth in adoption subsidy caseload
- \$100,000 to increase use of family team meetings
- \$300,000 for flexible services to match service with child and family needs
- \$200,000 for child protection centers
- \$725,000 to develop mental health services for children otherwise adjudicated child in need of assistance (CINA)
- \$891,508 to serve youth that have aged out of foster care and are in post-secondary education or training program



# Strengths of Iowa's System

(CFSR Final Report October 2003)

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- Services to prevent removal & address risk of harm
- Use of family team meetings
- Timeliness of reunification
- Efforts to place children close to their families, and with siblings
- Increase in number of adoptions
- Efforts to address children's educational needs
- Foster/adoptive parent training & licensing
- Ongoing partnerships with community
- Coordination with other agencies that serve children and families (e.g., substance abuse, domestic violence, law enforcement)
- Periodic case reviews & permanency hearings



# Areas Needing Improvement

(CFSR Final Report October 2003)

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- Repeat maltreatment
- Foster care re-entry
- Face-to-face visits with children and parents
- Disproportional number of minority children in care
- Preserving cultural connections
- Service array
- Staff training
- Quality assurance



# Challenges and Pressure Points

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- Challenges
  - Meth, domestic violence and mental health issues
  - High caseloads for frontline social workers
  - Budget reductions – especially for in-home and community based programs
- Budget Pressure Points
  - Adoption subsidy, group care, and shelter care



# Adoption Subsidy

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- Purpose – help children with special needs grow up in a safe and secure permanent family
- Services – provides financial assistance and other supports to families who adopt special needs children from foster care
- Pressure point – increased growth in expenditures



# Adoption Subsidy Caseloads and Expenditures

Fiscal Year	Finalized Adoptions	Avg. monthly # subsidized adoptions	Total Expenditures
FY 2001	706	4,899	\$33,081,950
FY 2002	781	5,010	\$37,374,414
FY 2003	1,039	5,998	\$42,268,119
FY 2004	1,077	6,688	\$47,399,377
FY 2005	1,000 (projection)	6,825 (projection)	\$51,273,040 (budget)
FY 2006	1,000 (projection)	7,393 (projection)	\$56,951,023 (budget request)



# Actions to Manage Adoption Subsidy Growth

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- Changes in eligibility
  - Minority children
  - Sibling groups
- Changes in benefits
  - Child care
  - Legal fees/court costs
  - Maintenance rates
- Staff training



# Group Care

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- Purpose – treatment for youth that cannot be served in a family
- Services – 24-hour care, structure and treatment
- Profile of children in group care
  - Age
    - 47% age 12 to 15
    - 50% age 16 to 18
  - Reason for placement
    - 52% child's behavior
    - 39% delinquency
    - 6% child abuse/neglect
  - Gender – 71% male, 29% female



# Group Care Caseloads and Expenditures

Fiscal Year	Average Daily Population	Waiting List (monthly avg.)	Total Expenditures
FY 2001	1,194	Not applicable	\$52,531,942
FY 2002	1,180	Not applicable	\$51,421,535
FY2003	997	120	\$44,242,898
FY 2004	1,059	208*	\$46,914,076
FY 2005 (budget)	1,182	0 (2-1-05)	\$53,339,969
FY 2006 (budget)	1,182	Not applicable	\$54,385,114



# Shelter Care

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- Purpose – Short term emergency care
- Services – 24-hour care and supervision
- Profile
  - 90% are age 12 or older
  - Gender – 55% male, 45% female
  - Reason for placement
    - Child's behavior/delinquency 76%
    - Child abuse/neglect/parental issues – 24%
  - Average length of stay – 39 days



# Historical Shelter Care Utilization & Expenditures (state and federal dollars)

Fiscal Year	Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditures	Average Daily Population
2000	\$8,832,844	\$8,986,934	303
2001	\$8,824,259	\$10,074,030	330
2002	\$9,265,003	\$10,452,338	342
2003	\$9,838,918	\$11,143,366	365
2004	\$7,724,042	\$11,862,197	386
2005	\$8,357,878	NA	273 (budget) 246 (YTD)



# Challenges in FY 2003/2004

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- Shelter care admissions, length of stay and expenditures increasing
- Primary Causes
  - Reductions in community based alternatives
  - Group care waiting list
- Result
  - Average daily population and expenditures increased 7% in FY 2003, and another 6% in FY 2004
  - FY 2003 – supplemental appropriation
  - FY 2004 -- funds for other services reduced to cover shelter care costs



# Strategies to Address Shelter Care Growth

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- Monthly/bi-monthly DHS – Provider discussions beginning November 2002
- \$4.5 M increase in state funding for group care in FY 2004 (123 more children/month)
- Increased focus on alternatives to shelter care
  - Diversion Programs (crisis intervention, in-home supervision, day treatment)
  - Relative placement
  - Emergency family foster care
- Active discharge planning
  - Family team meetings
  - Frequent staffings at regular intervals
- Rigorous review if placement continues
  - Review by supervisors
  - Review by Service Area Managers & Chief Juvenile Court Officers



# Impact on Children and Shelters

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- Children
  - More children receiving emergency services at home or in alternative settings (e.g., relative care), resulting in fewer children entering shelter
  - More children served in group care rather than waiting in shelter care
  - Shorter length of stay (LOS) – average LOS down 10 days (20%) from FY 2003
- Shelters
  - More shelter care beds than children placed in shelter care, resulting in low occupancy rates
  - Some shelters considering closing



# Better Results for Kids Redesign Foundation

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- Population - Who do we serve
- Outcomes - What results do we want to achieve
- Practice - How do we get better results



# Population – defining who we serve

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- Focusing on core child protection mission
- Risk related factors
  - Age of child
  - Abuse assessment outcome
  - Risk level
  - Adjudication status

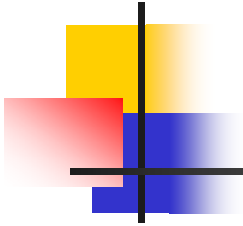
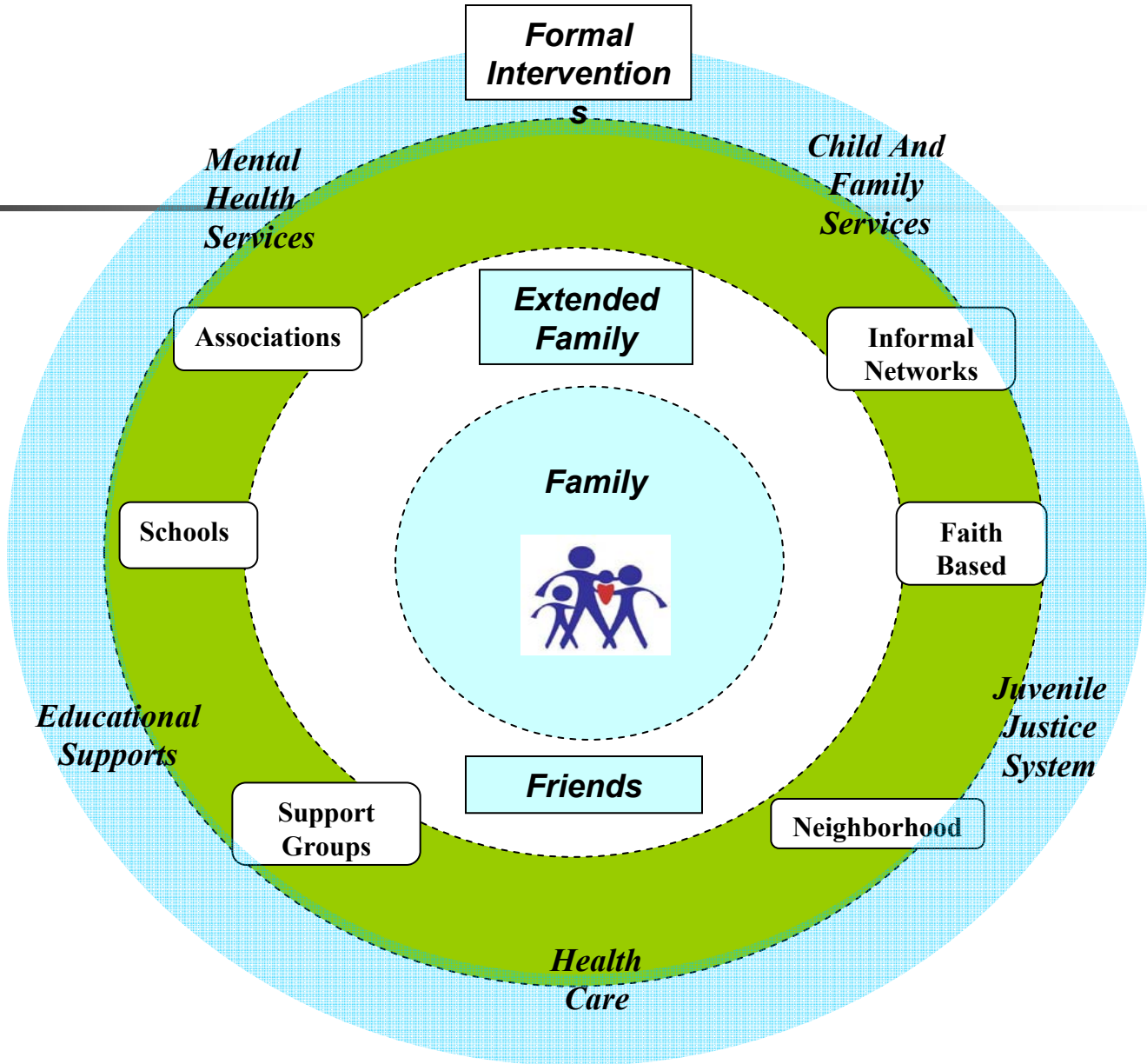




# Using risk factors to differentiate level of service

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- Lowest risk
  - Information
    - Children all ages, no abuse report, no court involvement
    - Children all ages, unconfirmed abuse report, low risk
  - Information and referral
    - Children all ages, confirmed/not registered abuse, low risk
- Low to moderate risk - Community Care
  - Children all ages, unconfirmed or confirmed/not registered abuse report, moderate to high risk
  - Children age 6+, founded abuse, low risk
- Higher risk - Open DHS case
  - Children age 0 – 5, founded abuse, all risk levels
  - Children age 6 +, founded abuse, moderate to high risk
  - Children all ages, court ordered





# Community Care

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- Goal/Purpose
  - Community based services for lower risk families available statewide
  - Focus DHS caseworkers on most vulnerable families
- Strategy
  - Single statewide contract with Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Inc.
    - Assess needs, family functioning, and risk factors
    - Connect families to community resources
  - Performance payments for keeping children safe and family satisfaction
- Timeline/Next Steps
  - Referrals start 3-1-05



# Strengthening Practice

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- Model of practice
- Aligning documentation with practice
- Family team meetings
- Flexible family centered services
- Minority family initiative
- Community Partnerships for Protecting Children



# Child Welfare Model of Practice

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- Guiding principles – customer focus, excellence, accountability, teamwork
- Frontline practice
  - Child safety and well-being paramount
  - Family engagement, and teamwork among all persons involved with family
  - Transparency – open sharing of information with family and team
  - Involvement of extended family and other informal and community supports
  - Individualized services based on child and family needs
  - Placement issues -- use of relative placement, keeping siblings together, keeping children in same school, maintaining family connections
  - Focus on permanency, and transition for older youth
  - Culturally sensitive services
- Program and organizational capacity



# Aligning Documentation with Practice

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## ■ **Goals/Purposes**

- Align documentation and provide tools to support casework decision-making across “life of case”
- More consistent practice across workers across state
- Streamlining documentation (e.g., reduce multiple entries of same information)
- Free up worker time to reinvest in face-to-face contact with children and families

## ■ **Strategies/Components**

- Decision support tools and “how do I guides”
- Changes in child welfare information system to streamline worker entry (e.g., “autofill”)
- Training on integration of model of practice, tools and documentation



# Family team meetings (FTM)

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- **Goals/Purposes**

- Increase family engagement in developing plan
- Build family team of those involved in helping family

- **Strategies**

- Selected population for FTM – families with founded abuse for child age 5 or younger
- Adopted standards for facilitators, & developed family team meeting “toolkit” for Service Areas
- Developing facilitators -- through training, coaching and mentoring across state



# Family Centered Flexible Services

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- **Goal/Purpose** — Provide greater flexibility so staff can match services to family needs
- **Strategies** — Identified 6 service options to add to family centered program for child welfare cases
  - Family team meeting facilitation
  - Relative home studies
  - Parent counseling & skill development
  - Community resource procurement
  - Flexible family support fund
  - Procurement card
  - “Eyes and ears” supervision





# Minority Family Initiative

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- Goal/Purpose – Reduce disproportional representation of minority children in child welfare
- Strategies
  - Community projects in Des Moines and Sioux City
  - Training and technical assistance through Resource Center at University of Iowa



# Community Partnerships for Protecting Children

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- Goal/Purpose – Engage communities in keeping children safe by expanding CPPC statewide by end of 2007
- Status
  - 38 counties currently participating in CPPC
  - 19 more counties starting in 2005
  - Statewide steering committee overseeing expansion



# Other Redesign Strategies

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- Memorandum of Agreement with Public Health and Education
- Title IV-E waiver
- Provider performance measures
- Provider documentation streamlining
- Quality Assurance/Improvement system



# Materials on BR4K Website

[http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs2005/dhs\\_homepage/children\\_family/child\\_welfare/welfare\\_system.html](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs2005/dhs_homepage/children_family/child_welfare/welfare_system.html)

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- BR4K Final Report Outcomes, Indicators, and Measures (12-11-03)
- Model of Practice (12-23-04)
- Community Care (6-30-04)
- Minority Family Initiative press release (3-30-04)
- Family Team Meeting documents (5-5-04 & 9-3-04)
- Flexible Family Centered Child Welfare Services (to be added in near future)
- IV-E Waiver (9-1-04)
- Streamlining project press release (5-11-04)
- Also, for information on CPPC, see <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/cppc/index.htm>.