

CYF OVERVIEW

**Allegheny County
Department of Human Services (DHS)
Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF)**



Pennsylvania Mandates

Child Protective Services Law (23 PACS § 6301-6385)

Juvenile Act (23 PACS § 6301-6385)

Pennsylvania Adoption Act (23 PACS § 2101-2910)

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

Other guidance from Pennsylvania OCYF

(statutes listed above are often amended by new laws)

MISSION

Because each child is precious and entitled to protection, security and the essentials of life, our mission is to:

- **protect children** at risk of abuse and neglect
- **preserve families** whenever possible
- **assure permanent** homes for children



(Very) General Process



2022-2023 Data Points

- 14,234 calls of suspected child abuse/neglect were received by CYF.
- 42% (6,007) screened out at intake.
- 58% (8,213) assigned to a caseworker for a full investigation.
- 13% of these (1,104) accepted for child welfare services
- 16% of these (1,299) connected to active cases

People served/People on active cases – CY 2022:

- 7,722 children; 10,045 adults
- On March 27, 2023, 3,750 children in 1,673 families were receiving services. 1,546 of these children were in out-of-home placement, with 60% (922) placed with kin, 32% (488) in a foster home, and 4% (67) in congregate care.

CYF in Allegheny County

Administrative Office

One Smithfield Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15222 | 412-350-5701

Child Protection/Intake Office

10700 Frankstown Road, Suite 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15235 | 412-473-2000

East Regional Office

10700 Frankstown Road, Suite 101
Pittsburgh, PA 15235 | 412-473-1100

Training Office

10700 Frankstown Road, Suite 102
Pittsburgh, PA 15235 | 412-473-2200

North Regional Office

901 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 8
Pittsburgh, PA 15233 | 412-323-6100

Mon Valley Regional Office

355 Lincoln Highway, Suite 5
North Versailles, PA 15137 | 412-664-8900

Operations Office

901 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 5
Pittsburgh, PA 15233 | 412-323-3720

South Regional Office

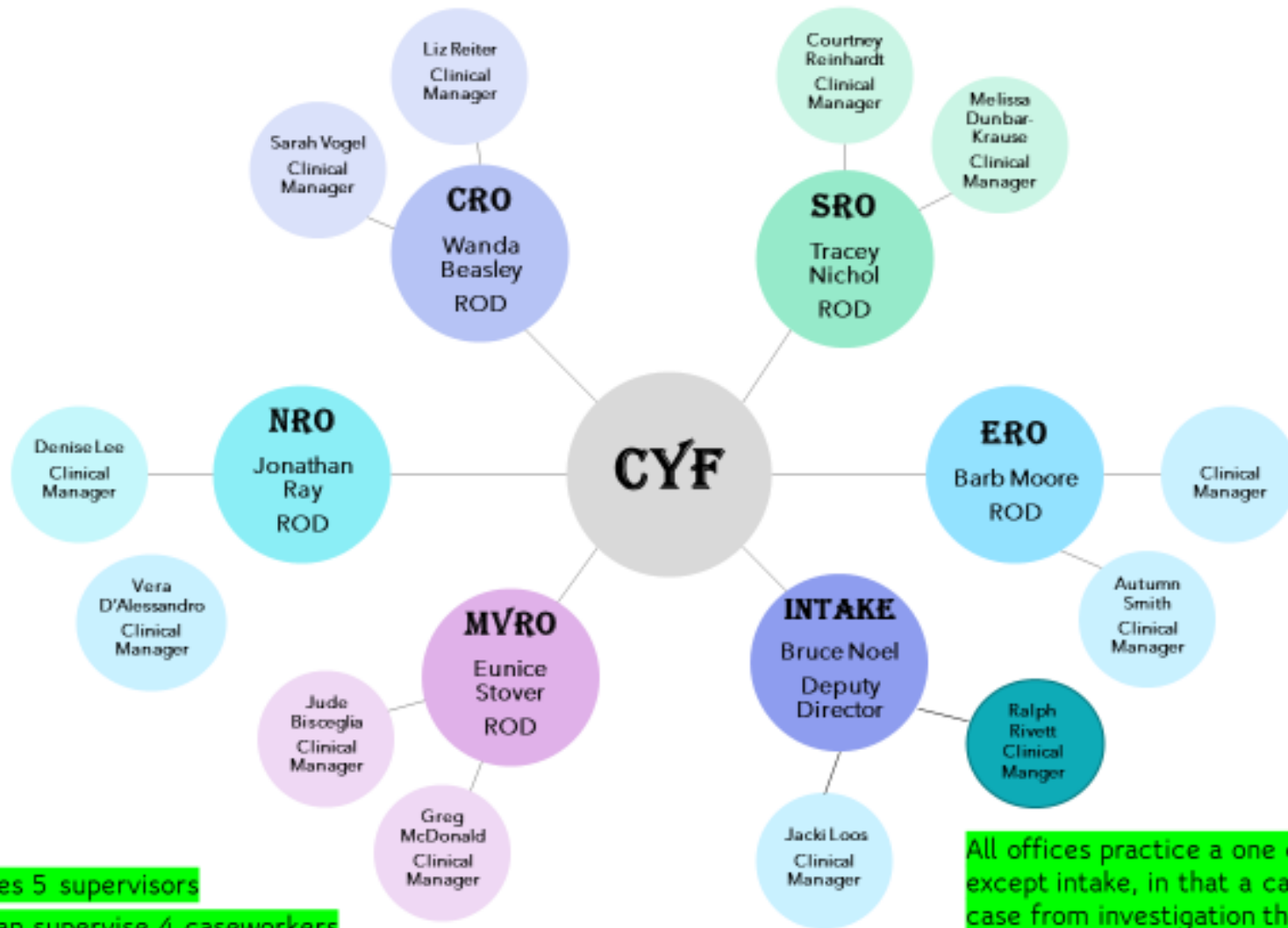
2100 Wharton Street, Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15203 | 412-488-8500

Central Regional Office

1401 Forbes Avenue, Suite 101
Pittsburgh, PA 15219 | 412-350-3600

Permanency Office

10 Duff Road, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, PA 15235 | 412-473-2300



Each CM supervises 5 supervisors

Each Supervisor can supervise 4 caseworkers

All offices practice a one casework model, except intake, in that a caseworker has a case from investigation through permanency.

Reporting of Child Abuse in Pennsylvania

Mandated Reporter

- Reports of suspected abuse can be made orally or in written form
- Written reports can also be submitted electronically through an online portal (Child Welfare Information System-CWIS)
- Oral reports via Childline at **1-800-932-0313** must be accompanied by a written CY-47 within 48 hours

Permissive Reporter (general public)

- Oral reports via Childline at **1-800-932-0313** or calling the Intake Department at **(412) 473-2000**

- Call Screening Unit (receives referrals and generates reports 24/7 & 365)
- Two types of referrals: CPS vs. GPS
- CPS referrals = assigned for Investigation
- GPS referrals = Assign for Assessment vs. Screen Out
- Engagement Unit: Extension of Call Screening to assist with GPS Screening decisions via information gathering
- Intake functions are time limited!
- Two Service Decisions: Accept for Service vs. Case Closure

How Intake is Structured and Functions:





Intake continued..

- Reports are received from CWIS and Phone calls (412-473-2000)
- Cases are dispersed by zip code.
- CPS Intake only work on Childline investigations
- GPS cases
MVRO,CRO,SRO,NRO,ERO Offices
- Delays may happen

Engagement Unit

- Extension of Call Screening
- Any referral for children 0-3 that are impacted by the allegations
- Reports on children enrolled in Cyber school or Home School
- Reports that are the 4th call on a family within 2 years where there hasn't been an INV in that timeframe
- Any other report where Call Screening would like more information to arrive at a Screening decision
- Recommendations generated:
 - *Screen Out (Agency involvement ends here)*
 - *Assign for Assessment*



SUPPORT STAFF

Alliance for Infant and Toddlers

Behavioral Health Specialists

Solicitors

CHECS Nurses (CHP)

JPO Crossover Coordinator

Father Engagement Specialists

Transition Planners

Educational Liaisons

Intimate Partner Violence Supports

Kinship Navigators

Managed Care Liaisons

Multi-Systems Specialists

Paralegals

Peer Coaches

POWER Staff (D&A)

Best Practice Specialists

Transportation Specialists

In-Home Navigator



Myths about our agency

We do not like removing children

We want to empower families, not break them apart

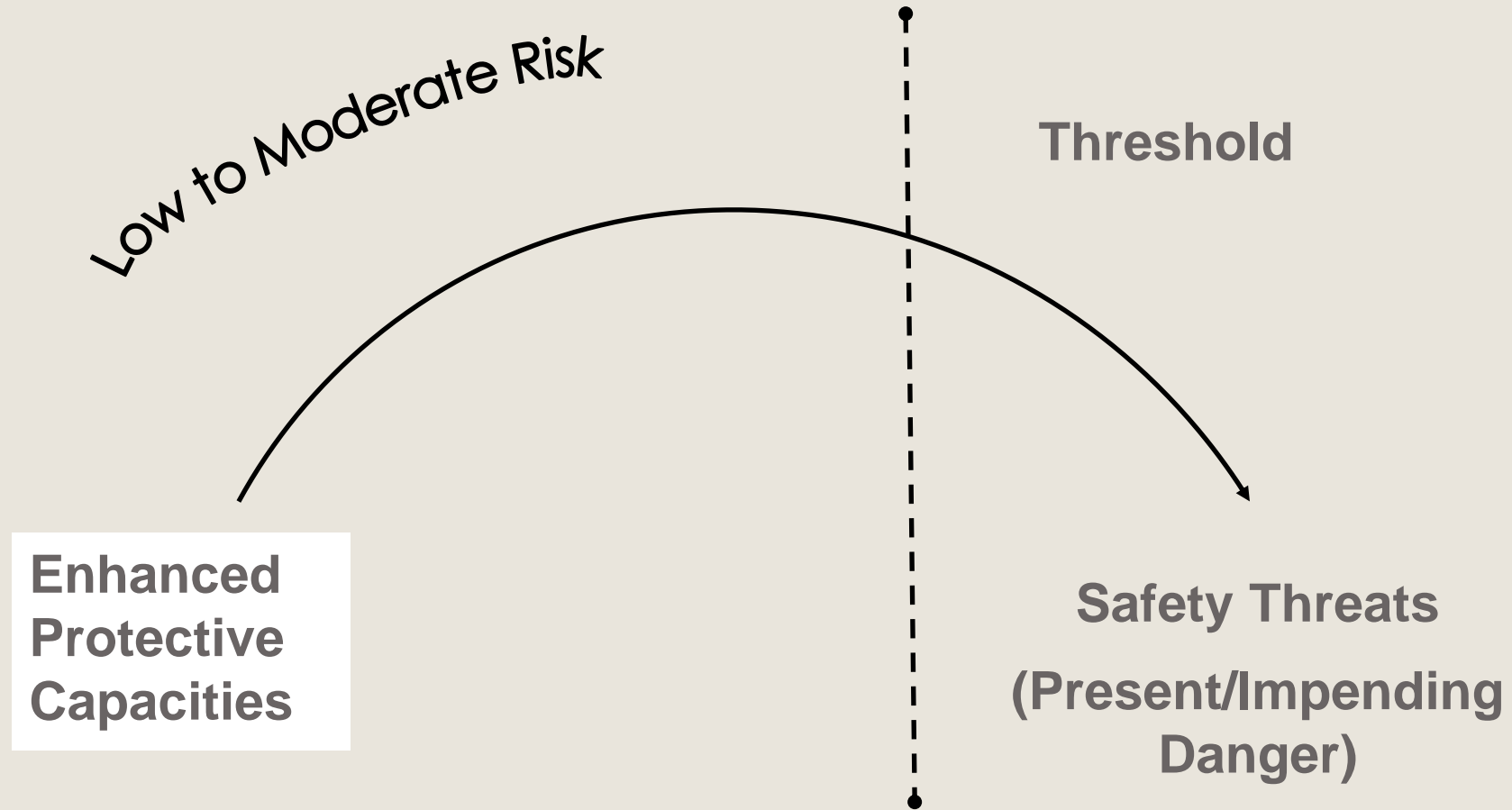
We want to leave your life as soon as possible

We are not voluntary

Caseworkers make the decisions on your case

We don't care about Fathers

Risk to Safety Continuum



Agency Response

Call Screening Supervisor assigns a response time when determination is assigned for assessment/investigation:

- Immediate
 - 24 hours
 - 48 hours (*Infants Substance Affected Infants*)
 - 5 days
 - 10 days
- On-site

Safety Response Unit Night Intake

Staffed 4pm-12am, M-F

Casework staff do not carry a caseload, rather, focus on assuring child safety after hours

- New referrals
- Active cases in crisis only when the crisis emerges after 4:30pm M-F

Not intended or equipped to handle emergencies that surface on active cases prior to 4:30pm, M-F



DEFINITIONS OF *CHILD ABUSE*

◦ Child Abuse shall mean **intentionally, recklessly, or knowingly** doing any of the following:

Child Protective Services (CPS) Categories

Causing Serious Bodily Injury

Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act

Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act

Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury of a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act

Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act

Child Protective Services (CPS) Categories

Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act

Causing serious physical neglect of a child

Per Se Acts

Death

Sex trafficking



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GPS

- Truancy
- Substance Affected Infant
- Concrete Goods
- Mental Health
- Drugs and Alcohol
- IPV
- Homelessness
- Other

GPS Cont.

Abandonment

Adoption Disruption/Dissolution

Behavioral Health Concerns(Child-Parent/Caregiver)

Child Sexually Acting Out

Conduct by Parent, Caregiver, or Household Member that Places Child at Risk or

Any action or failure to act by a parent, caregiver, or household member that directly or indirectly places the child at risk of harm.

Fails to Protect the Child from Others*

A child under 10 years of age who commits a delinquent act.

Expulsion (from Home)/ Lockout

Inadequate Basic Needs (Clothing/Food/Hygiene)

Inadequate Education

Inadequate Health Care

Inadequate Nurturing/Affection

Inadequate Shelter/Housing

Inappropriate Discipline

Physical Injury (Perpetrator Relationship Unknown)

Child received an injury and the perpetrator relationship is unknown

Exclusions of Child Abuse

Environmental Factors

Practice of religious beliefs

Child on Child Contact

Use of force for supervision,
control, and safety

ACCEPT FOR SERVICE

This is the decision made during the investigation PROCESS
AS TO WHETHER a Case should be opened for ongoing service

REASONS TO
ACCEPT FOR
SERVICE

Childs Behavior
and Parents
inability to
cope/control

Child Placed

Court ordered
services

Family in need
of services only
CYF can provide

Parent request
for services

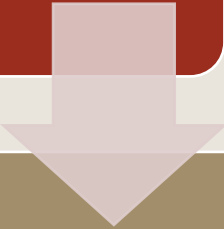
Truancy

Current or
Impending
Safety Threats

Significant Risk
Factors

Investigative Timeframes:

30 – 60 days to complete investigation/assessment



Children must be visited in their living environment at least every 30 days; however, when risk is rated as “high”, visits must occur *weekly*

SUBSTANCE AFFECTED INFANTS

§ Act 54 of 2018



A Substance Affected Infant is defined as an infant currently under one year of age identified as born affected by prenatal legal or illegal substance use. "Affected By" is defined as an infant "with detectable physical, developmental, cognitive, or emotional delay or harm that is associated with maternal substance use or withdrawal, as assessed by a health care provider".

- • Alcohol
- • Appropriate Use of Legally Prescribed Medication (Excluding OUD/SUD Treatment)
- • Illegal Substances(s)
- • Medication Assisted Treatment – Substance Use Disorder or Opioid Use Disorder
- • Misuse/Abuse of Legal Medication (whether prescribed or not)
- • Unknown Substances
-

SAI (Cont)



- All notifications of a Substance Affected Infant MUST be made directly to ChildLine. Counties will not be able to create referrals which contain the Substance Affected Infant notification information. If a Mandated Reporter who is considered a Health Care Provider contacts a County CYA to make a Substance Affected Infant
- Notification in error, the County should advise the Mandated Reporter to make the SAI Notification directly to ChildLine.



Who can report SAI?

- A person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State

- An employee of a health care facility or provider licensed by the Department of Health who is engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of individuals

- An emergency medical services provider certified by the Department of Health person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State

Responsibilities of County Agency:

- Perform a **safety** assessment or **risk** assessment, or both, determine whether child protective services or general protective services are warranted for the child
- Immediately **ensure the safety** of the child and see the child immediately *if* emergency protective custody is required or has been taken, or if it cannot be determined from the report whether emergency custody is needed
- Physically see the child within **48 hours** of receipt of the report
- **Contact the parents** of the child within **24 hours** of receipt of the report
- Provide or arrange **reasonable service** to ensure the child is provided with proper parental care, control, and supervision



JUVENILE COURT



Entering the child welfare/court system

Private Petition: any private party (ie. parent/family member, police officer, school staff) can pursue filing a dependency petition with the court.

CYF: Following referral/report, CYF investigates and may either:

- **Offer services** to the family to avoid court involvement OR;
- Initiate dependency case by **filing a petition** (but allowing child to remain in the home) OR;
- Remove child from home pursuant to **Emergency Custody Authorization ("ECA")** and request a shelter hearing.

Why do we go to Court?

PLACEMENT

- Child taken into protective custody
- Change placement
- Continue a placement

TO GAIN COOPERATION

- With investigation
- With course of treatment
- With CYF supervision

PARENTS' DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

- Removal for safety

Types of Hearings

Shelter

Petition

Dependency

Aggravated
Circumstances

Termination of
Parental Rights
(TPR)

Permanency
Reviews

Grounds for Dependency

1. Is without proper parental control, subsistence and/or education as required by law or other control necessary for their physical, mental or emotional health or moral well-being is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his physical, mental, or emotional health, or morals. A determination that there is a lack of proper parental care or control may be based upon evidence of conduct by the parent, guardian or other custodian that places the health, safety or welfare of the child at risk, including evidence of the parent's, guardian's or other custodian's use of alcohol or a controlled substance that places the health, safety or welfare of the child at risk;
2. Has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law.
3. Has been abandoned by his parents, guardian or other custodian.
4. Is without parent, guardian or legal custodian.
5. While subject to compulsory school attendance is habitually and without justification truant from school.

Grounds for Dependency, (cont'd)

6. Has committed a specific act or acts of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his parents, guardian or other custodian and who is ungovernable and found to be in need of care, treatment or supervision.
7. Is under the age of ten years and has committed a delinquent act.
8. Has been formally adjudicated dependent, and is under the jurisdiction of the court, subject to its conditions or placements and who commits an act defined as ungovernable in paragraph (6).
9. Has been referred pursuant to 6323 (relating to informal adjustment), and who commits an act which is defined as ungovernable in paragraph (6).
10. Is born to a parent whose parental rights with regard to another child have been involuntarily terminated under 23 PA.C.S.A. 2511 within three years immediately preceding the date of birth of the child and conduct of the parent poses a risk to the health, safety or welfare of the child.

Permanency Goals

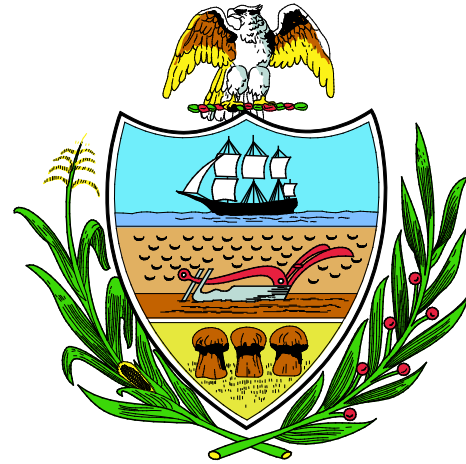
› Reunification

› Adoption

› Permanent Legal Custodian

› Fit and Willing Relative

› Another Permanent Living Arrangement



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION