Planning services for children, youth & families

Needs-Based Plan and Budget FY 2022-23
Public Hearing
Welcome!

• Meeting will be recorded
• Please mute your lines when you are not speaking
• Please use chat box to share questions throughout presentation
  • We’ll have Q&A at the end when folks joining via phone can unmute
• You may request a transcript of the hearing, translated into needed language, by emailing DHS-ideas@alleghenycounty.us
Agenda

• What is the Needs-Based Plan & Budget
• State of the system/data review
• DHS priorities for children, youth & families
• Questions and comments on DHS plan
• Juvenile Probation mission and activities
Why the Needs Based Plan & Budget matters

• Supports programs and services for children and families across the continuum
  • Family Centers
  • Out of School Time programs
  • Eviction prevention and housing supports
  • Services to preserve and reunify families
  • Kinship Care, Foster Care and other out-of-home placements

• Enables new initiatives and innovation
  • This is our only opportunity for meaningful year-over-year funding increases
• $1B budget
• 100+ awards
• But just three make up 80% of our budget
  • Managed Care
  • Needs-Based funding
  • Human Services Block Grant
How DHS spends the NBPB

- 57% Non-placement
- 24% Placement
- 15% Other
- 4% Administration
My sense of child welfare history in Allegheny County

• Way back, we removed a lot of kids, didn’t offer much prevention, didn’t invest in kinship care and so on. And then we made a lot of changes.

• For the past decade or more, we’ve thought:
  • We don’t want to remove kids
  • We want to invest in families and support kin when kids have to be removed, and
  • It’s ok to open CYF cases to provide that help/to keep families together

• Today, we know that:
  • Most kids with open cases are not at high risk of serious harm
  • Many are not in need of clinical services
  • Families don’t want to be in child welfare if they don’t have to
  • Families can get assistance in the community if we offer what they need and pay for it
So...

The role of child welfare today is to have a small number of open cases where we serve families who are at high risk of removal or serious abuse/neglect and/or have need for clinical services (EBPs).

And

DHS needs to invest in wide-open, welcoming community-based services where all families can get what they need from help with a utility bill to a refrigerator to help with a struggling teen to help for intimate partner violence.

We are working to make this transition...
State of the System in Allegheny County

Data Review
Referrals to Hotline

After years of continuous increases, referrals were impacted considerably by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and dropped in FY19-20 and FY20-21.

There are recent signs in 2021 that intake counts are trending upward and may in coming months return to pre-pandemic levels.

Around 50% of referrals screened in for investigations.
Ongoing Services

Placements were fairly stable throughout FY19-20

Late-year downtick in incoming referrals and intake investigations did start to impact the counts of new and ongoing children and families receiving services further downstream.

It is expected that normalization of intake referrals upstream would lead to these figures increasing to former levels as well.
First Placement Type

Use of kinship care has steadily increased, particularly from 2015 onward.

Simultaneously, the use of congregate care has decreased significantly from 19% of first placements in 2015 to 7% in 2020.

These notable shifts can be attributed to system-wide efforts to increase awareness of the beneficial aspects of family-based placements, and a particular emphasis on family-finding activities and prioritizing the use of kinship care placements.
Trend of declining admissions and discharges since early 2019

Since September 2020 sharper decline in admissions.
Permanency within 12 months

This indicator reports on the percentage of children and youth who enter care in a 12-month period and discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care.

The national performance standard is 40.5% and Allegheny County’s percentage was 25.7%.

A higher performance of the measure is desirable in this indicator.
% of children who re-entered care within 1 year of exit has been declining.

The national performance standard is 8.3% whereas Allegheny County’s rate was 14% in FY2021.
Racial Disproportionality

Disproportionality starts at system’s front door

Black children and youth being referred at higher rates than their white counterparts.

Once referred, Black children and youth continue to face disproportionality at each decision point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Multiracial</th>
<th>White</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (rate per 1000)</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referral (rate per 1000 children in population)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td>Investigation rate (per 1000 children referred)</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>542</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accept for Service Rate (per 1000 children investigated)</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal Rate (per 1000 children accepted for service)</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>272</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Black Girl Equity Alliance Report

- Black girls in Allegheny County are 10 times more likely than White girls to be referred to juvenile justice (and Black boys are seven times more likely than White boys to be referred).

- Behaviors of Black and White girls do not account for these differentials. For example:
  - Black girls in Allegheny County are twice as likely as White girls to be involved in a physical fight, yet they are 13 times more likely to be referred to the juvenile justice system for assault.
  - Rates of alcohol and drug use are similar among Black and White girls in Allegheny County, yet Black girls are over three times as likely as White girls to be referred to the juvenile justice system for drug offenses.
Efforts to Reduce Disproportionality

White-vs.-black disparity in experiencing family settings has narrowed from over ten percentage points to nearly zero in 2020.

Pct. of First CYF Placements in Kinship/Foster, by Child Race Group, Per Year

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>90.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>91.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two or More Races Identified</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>90.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Single Race Identified</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White vs. Black Disparity</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>14.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Races</strong></td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>90.8</td>
</tr>
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Notes: Minimum N=25 for a given race-year combo to be included.
First Placement of Black Girls 12+

Reduction in the number of African American teenage girls whose first placement is congregate care
DHS priorities for children, youth and families

Strategies for 2021-23
Priorities Overview

a) Addressing inequities in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

b) Poverty or lack of resources vs. Abuse and Neglect:
   a) Helping the hardest hit families recover from the pandemic’s social and economic impacts.
   b) Making sure families can access services that prevent child maltreatment and promote well-being, without becoming involved in the child welfare system first.

c) Universal assessment to determine the right level of intervention for needs AKA: In-home redesign

d) Improving outcomes for children and youth who experience home removal.
Growing the racial inequities work completed in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems

New Strategies for 2021-23

- Ensure inequity lens is woven into every priority
- Consider new community response rather than Child Welfare
- Develop an oversight committee to hear and respond to concerns
- Diversion from Juvenile Justice to services youth need (as recommended by Black Girls’ Equity Alliance)
- Investments in prevention and in-home redesign to keep more families out of the system
- Culturally responsive, community-based, and family-like placement options (as part of foster care redesign)
b) Helping the hardest hit families recover from the pandemic’s social and economic impacts

Strategies in 2021-23:

• Increasing supports for basic needs and housing prior Child Welfare Involvement

• Strengthening out of school time programming with smaller ratios and more resources

• Investing in data- and research-driven approaches to address the root causes and impacts of gun violence
c) Making sure families can access services they need, ideally without becoming involved in the child welfare system first.

*Strategy for 2021-23:*

Strengthen continuum of prevention services so that our service array matches family needs and so those services are readily accessible for families:

- **Family Centers** –
  - Making these neighborhood-based hubs where families can turn to for help. New investments include adding navigators, legal services and child care to these locations.

- **Hello Baby** –
  - Making sure we reach new moms with services specific to their needs. New investments include robust, concrete supports and expansion of evidence-based home visiting for new moms with high needs.

- **In-home services redesign** –
  - Preventing further system involvement for families referred to child welfare by improving assessments and service array so that families are matched to the right services.
Universal assessment to determine the right level of intervention for needs

Strategies in 2021-23

• Implement a Universal assessment completed timely
• Staff are assisted by a Decision Support Tool
  • Low risk families supported in the community
  • High risk families given an Evidence Based Practice that would be most successful for them
• Procure interventions to meet identified needs and areas of opportunity
• Diversity of clinicians providing the intervention
d) Improving outcomes for children and youth who experience home removal

*Strategies in 2021-23:*

- Enhancing recruitment, retention and diversity of non-kin foster care homes
- Strengthening supports for kinship homes by providing parity in family per diems
- Increasing capacity for serving youth with complex needs
  - Therapeutic Foster Care (as part of Foster Care redesign)
  - New/added capacity in settings that offer therapeutic services
Questions and comments?
How to give input to DHS

- Neighborland
- DHS-ideas@alleghenycounty.us
Juvenile Probation
Mission & Activities
Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department’s Mission

• To achieve the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice BARJ to protect the community
• To hold juveniles accountable to restore victims and communities
• To help juveniles develop competency skills that lead to law abiding and productive citizenship.
JJSES

- Allegheny County JPO has been actively engaged in implementing the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) since 2011.
- Based on research that clarified “what works” to reduce the risk juvenile offenders pose to the community.
- Research and practice are interwoven as never before.
- While our sights remain firmly fixed on attaining the goals of BARJ, business practice has been fundamentally transformed using evidence-based practices.
Youth Level of Service (YLS)

- The foundation of the evidence-based effort
- Validated risk/needs instrument that assesses a juvenile’s likelihood to re-offend
- In calendar year 2020, there were 1,615 YLS Assessments completed
  - 23% youth scored in the Low range,
  - 53% scored in the Moderate range,
  - 24% scored in the High range
  - 0% scored in the Very High range
Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol SPEP™

• Analyzes specific provider services, reviewing the type, quality, and amount of service provided and the risk level of youth
• Improve programming for juveniles thereby reducing their risk to reoffend
• Developed by Dr. Mark Lipsey at Vanderbilt University
• Validated, data-driven rating system for determining how well a program matches what research tells us is effective in reducing recidivism
• JPO has applied the process to 90 interventions at 14 residential and community-based provider locations for a total of 106 SPEPs™
Balanced and Restorative Justice BARG - Accountability

• Ensure that juveniles are held accountable
  • $208,502 collected in 2020,
  • $145,899 went to victims as restitution for crimes committed
  • $9,693 went to the Victim Compensation Fund
  • Over $3,022 was directed to the Stipend Fund

• 825 juveniles whose cases were closed in 2020,
  • 88 % satisfied their restitution obligations in full
  • 98 % completed all their required hours of community service
Balanced and Restorative Justice BARG – Community Protection

• 86% of the youth who cases were closed in 2020 did not recidivate while under supervision
Other Activities

• Pa Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT)
  • Enhance their vocational and academic support services to youth
  • All CISP Centers and all residential programs are PACTT Affiliates

• Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
  • Evidence-based cognitive behavioral intervention that improves social skills, moral reasoning, & anger management while reducing aggressive behavior
  • Delivered in placement and in the community

• Crossover Youth Practice Model CYPM
  • Implemented in January 2016
  • Guides the day-to-day activities of PO’s & Caseworkers working with dually involved youth
Other Activities Continued

• Graduated Responses
  • Both incentives and sanctions
  • Research based, the incentive/sanction ratio of 4:1

• Motivational Interviewing (MI)
  • Collaborative conversational style for strengthening motivation and commitment to change
  • All direct service staff have completed MI training.

• Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)
  • translate the risk, needs, and responsivity principles into practice.
  • increase dosage for higher risk offenders, stay focused on criminogenic needs, especially the thought-behavior link
  • use a social learning, cognitive behavioral approach during their interactions
Other Activities Continued

• Trauma-Informed Decision Protocol (TIDP).
  • Child Trauma Screen (CTS)
  • Use the TIDP to incorporate the results into the Case Planning process
  • Dr Keith Cruise, Professor and Director of Clinical Training at Fordham University

• Optimizing Supervision & Service Strategies to Reduce Reoffending: Accounting for Risks, Strengths, and Developmental Differences
  • Dr. Gina Vincent 3-year research project
  • Identify the Protective Factors Most Strongly Associated with Reduced Reoffending to Inform Supervision Practices
IMPACT of COVID 19

• Community Protection
  • maintaining regular contact by utilizing a variety of video chat platforms and
distance face to face visits

• Accountability
  • pen pal program whereby the youth write letters to those in nursing homes &
  rehabilitation centers
  • Victim’s Curriculum delivered virtually

• Competency Development
  • Chromebooks for youth
  • Virtual service delivery individual and in groups