



Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

Georgia CFSP 2015-2019 Overview

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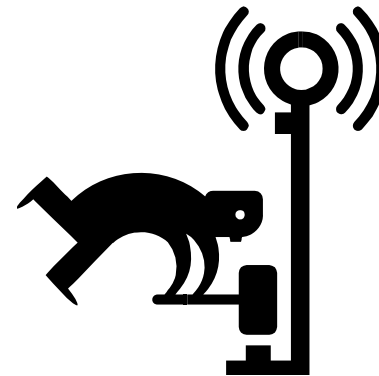
Dianne Kelly, Foster Care Services Director

Assessment of Past Performance

Strengths

The State was consistently in substantial conformity in the following areas:

- Repeat maltreatment
- Foster care reentries
- Proximity of foster care placement



Assessment of Past Performance

Improvements needed

- Risk and safety assessment
- Service provision and follow-up to assess progress
- Quality contacts with parents and children
- Establishing appropriate permanency goals and achieving timely permanency
- Meeting Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) timeframes
- Diligent search for relatives
- Maintaining relationship between child and parents
- Engaging parents (particularly fathers) and children in case planning



Contributing Factors

- Increase in case volume with the introduction of the statewide centralized intake call center
- DFCS has not been able to increase the number of staff to manage the larger caseloads until recently
- Families are not being referred to resources or transferred to services workers for follow-up in a timely manner
- Assessments not completed accurately or thoroughly
- Lack of quality in supervisory staffing sessions
- Documentation is poor or not being entered into Georgia SHINES



Contributing Factors

- Continuances or delay in court hearings
- TPRs not filed timely
- Permanency plans and/or case plans not established timely
- Quality of case manager visits with parents is poor
- Capacity of foster homes not enough to meet the need
- Educational, medical/dental health information not being uploaded in SHINES
- Services are not consistently available to families across the state.



CFSP Goals: Goal 1

Improve the timeliness, quality and utilization of child and family assessments throughout the child welfare continuum

- Objective 1:** Implement and sustain a family assessment process for CPS, Family Preservation and Foster Care by September 2019.
- Objective 2:** DFCS staff will improve the quality and timeliness assessing child safety in investigations and family support cases by September 2019
- Objective 3:** Develop and implement an improved permanency planning assessment process by September 2019.
- Objective 4:** Ensure that physical/behavioral health, educational, and family assessment recommendations are addressed; and timely according the DFCS Social Services Policy (5 business days).
- Objective 5:** Automate the service referral process for DFCS policy mandated assessments related to ILP, EPAC, CCFA and health checks.



CFSP Goals: Goal 1

- ❑ **Objective 6:** Improve staff critical thinking and decision-making skills to ensure appropriate safe disposition of cases by 2019.



CFSP Goals: Goal 2

Establish a values-based case practice model which supports safety, family and youth engagement, and community connections

- Objective 1:** Implement a trauma-informed family-centered case practice model by September 2019.
- Objective 2:** By September 2019 fully implement Connect By 21(CB21) a project designed to create a developmentally appropriate post-emancipation system of support for youth ages 18 to 21 years.



CFSP Goals: Goal 3

Meet the assessed and individualized needs of children, youth, and families through an enhanced and broaden array of services.

- Objective 1:** DFCS will ensure safety services are available to ensure ongoing safety management of children.
- Objective 2:** Work collaboratively with the identified CMO to ensure physical and behavioral health care services are available to meet the identified needs of all eligible children in foster care.
- Objective 3:** Closely monitor the utilization of medications for children in foster care to ensure only those medically necessary are prescribed.
- Objective 4:** Identify and develop partnerships with local education agencies (LEAs) to improve high school graduation rates and implement positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) within their school system or agency by July 2017.



CFSP Goals: Goal 3

- ❑ **Objective 5:** Develop a plan to improve the statewide practice to meet the needs of children in family preservation cases by July 2018



5 – Year Diligent Recruitment Plan

Goal # 1: Ensure that children and youth are placed in the least restrictive & most appropriate placement.

Expand the number of foster and adoptive resources to ensure that each child has at least two potential placement matches.

Increase awareness through traditional and social media campaigns.

Partner with Fostering Together and Promise 686 to support faith-based recruitment

Enhance 877-210-KIDS Inquiry Line Process

Through partnerships with RBWO providers increase placement options for high-end specialty placements and those for older youth up to 21 years.



5 – Year Diligent Recruitment Plan

Goal # 1: Ensure that children and youth are placed in the least restrictive & most appropriate placement.

Initiate caregiver recruitment efforts with GA Tribes and Hispanic families.

Increase proactive and responsive inter-jurisdictional adoption matching efforts

Increase the number of relative placements and relative foster parents



5 – Year Diligent Recruitment Plan

Goal # 2: Improve organizational effectiveness regarding resource development, retention and placement matching.

Improve placement matching process, tools, and training for resource development staff.

- Assess and improve RBWO program designations system
- Utilize data more effectively
- Conduct a feasibility study on centralized placement matching
- Request TA from the NRC
- Improve ICPC functions



5 – Year Diligent Recruitment Plan

Goal # 3: Increase the retention of prospective caregivers in the approval process and retain approved caregivers for at least five years.

Improved tracking and support of caregivers through the approval process

Annual foster parent surveys and regular communications

Improve the FP Grievance process for DFCS and CPA foster parents



Statewide Recruitment Kick-Off Meeting for RBWO

Monday, November 17th

Georgia World Congress Center

Registration Information will be
provided via GA SCORE Email.



Q & A

