



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Presentation to the House Family, Children, & Human Affairs Committee

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Mission & Vision

Mission: The Indiana Department of Child Services protects children from abuse and neglect, and works to ensure their financial support.

Vision: Children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities.



Child Support Bureau

Core Functions:

- Responsible for administering the Title IV-D child support program in Indiana
- Child support is state administered and county operated
- Federally required child support functions include location of non-custodial parents, establishment of child support and medical support orders, and disbursement of child support dollars



Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

- Central point of contact for all child abuse and neglect reports throughout Indiana
- Five locations across the state:
 - Marion County
 - Saint Joseph County
 - Blackford County
 - Lawrence County
 - Vanderburgh County
- Staffed 24/7/365 by specially trained Intake Specialists:
 - 12 weeks of training before taking reports



Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

- More than 198,000 reports of child abuse or neglect received in 2014
- Calls answered promptly:
 - Law enforcement – answered in average of 20 seconds
 - General calls – answered in average of 32 seconds



Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

- **Indiana is a mandatory reporting state**
 - Any person who has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected must make a report
- Medical professionals, teachers, and law enforcement officials have a higher duty to report abuse or neglect

1-800-800-5556



Child in Need of Services

- DCS will file a CHINS petition when there is sufficient reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse and neglect
- The situation must meet one or more of the CHINS definitions as set forth in Indiana law, and DCS must show that coercive intervention of the court is necessary to protect the child



Serving Children & Families

Prevention

Preservation

**Reunification
and
Placement**

**Permanency
& Supports
After Case
Closure**



Serving Children & Families

- **Prevention** services to prevent a family from formal involvement with DCS due to child abuse or neglect
- **Preservation** services to keep families in-home to keep the family together
- **Placement** services to protect the safety and welfare of children in out-of-home placements



Serving Children & Families

- **Reunification** services to attempt to reunite a child and family in-home
- **Permanency** services to support the child and family after DCS has closed its case

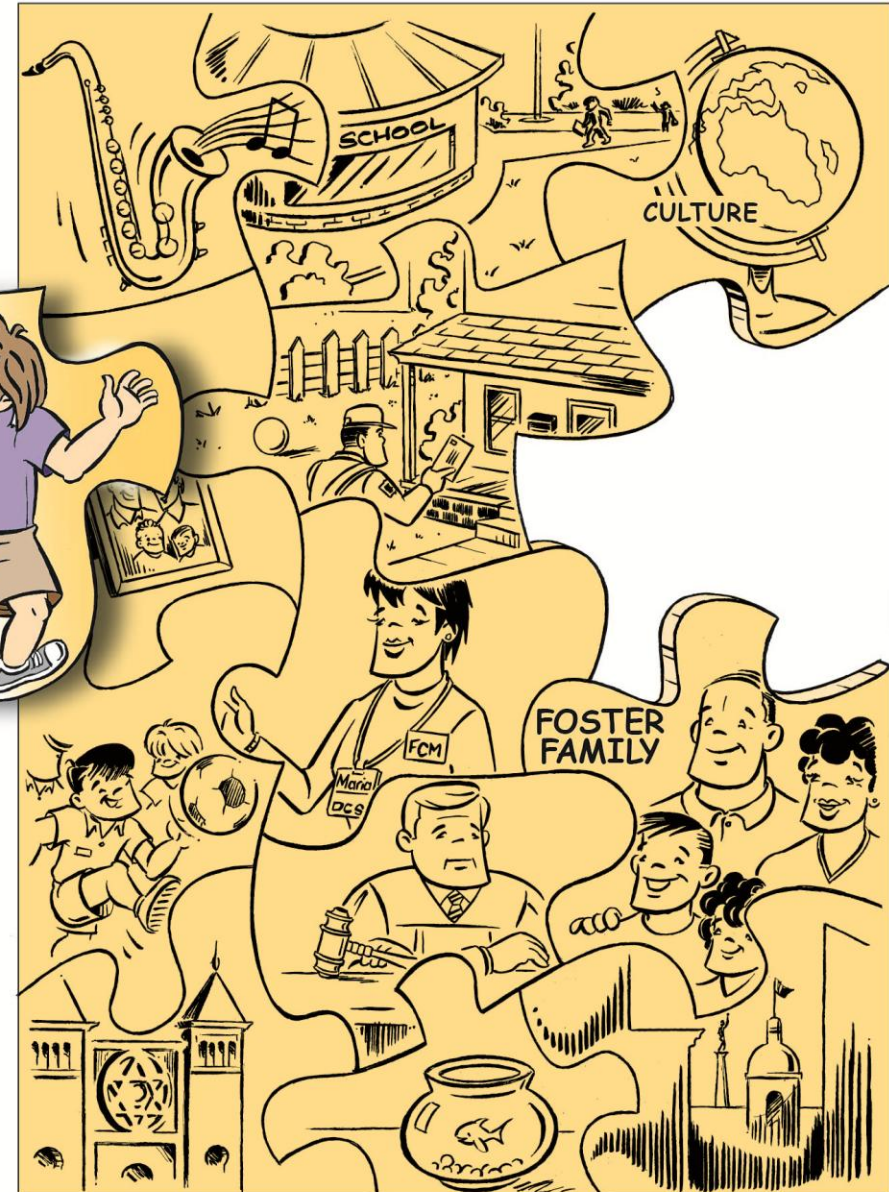
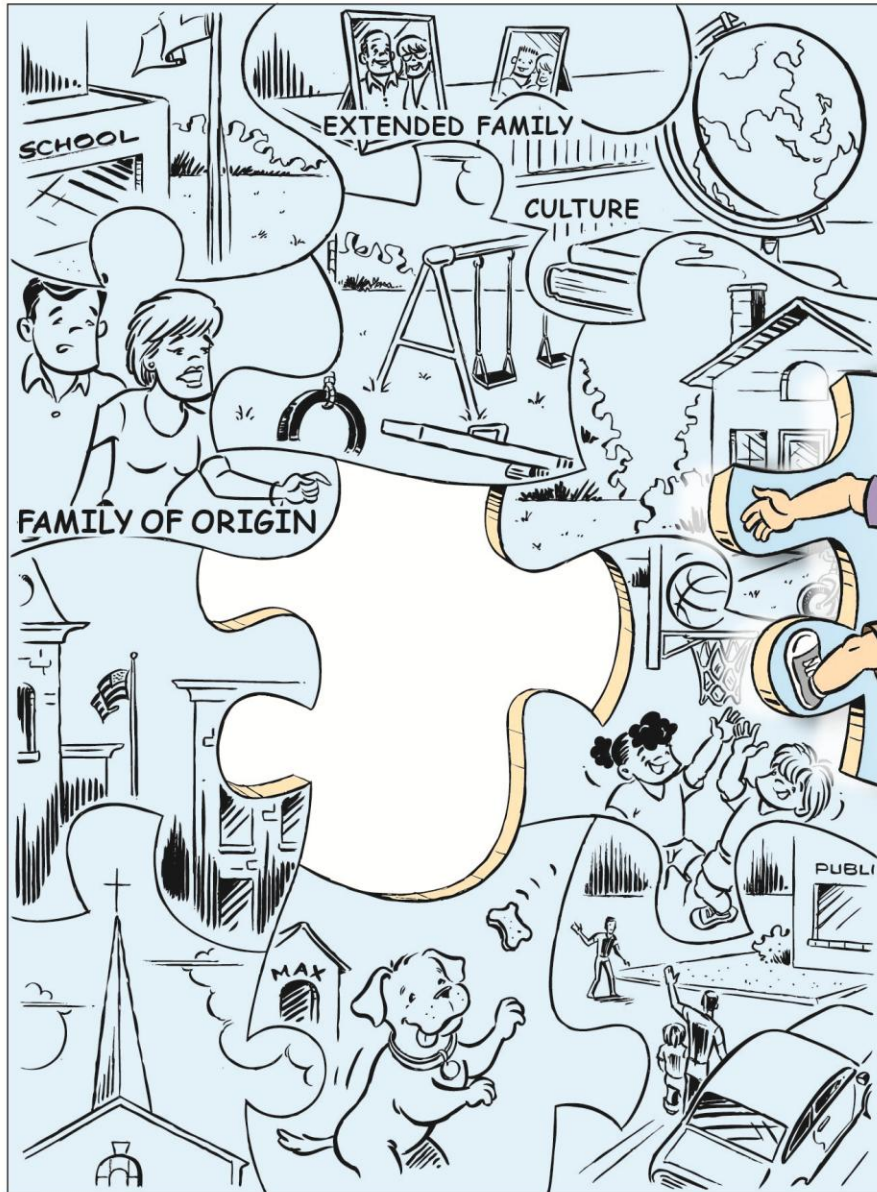


Placement: Safely Home, Families First

- Trauma of removal vs. risk of harm
- Statutorily DCS and the Court are required to ensure that any placement is in the:
 - » least restrictive,
 - » most family like and most appropriate setting available,
 - » close to the parent's home,
 - » consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child



One Child, Two Worlds: Where Do I Fit? How Do I Fit?



Placement Options: Safely Home, Families First

- Own home
- Non-custodial parent
- Relative caregiver
- Foster home
- Group home
- Residential facilities
- Psychiatric facilities



Relative Placements

- Staff supporting relatives
- Financial Supports
 - Initial Clothing (up to \$200 per child)
 - Personal Allowance (up to \$300 annually)
 - Special Occasion (up to \$50 at birthday and Dec. holiday)
 - Bed/Bedding (up to \$400 per child)
 - Child Care (\$18 a day/\$90 per week for up to 6 months)
 - Respite (5 days a calendar year)
 - Travel (specified travel reimbursed at the State travel rate)

– Services



Foster Care

- DCS is responsible for issuing foster care licenses
- Foster care provides a safe, nurturing, stable, and temporary environment for children

- **Requirements for licensure?**
 - Pass background checks
 - Home study
 - Positive personal reference statements
 - Complete all required training



Residential Facility Licensure

- DCS licenses residential facilities to ensure safety of children.

These are the most restrictive placement settings.

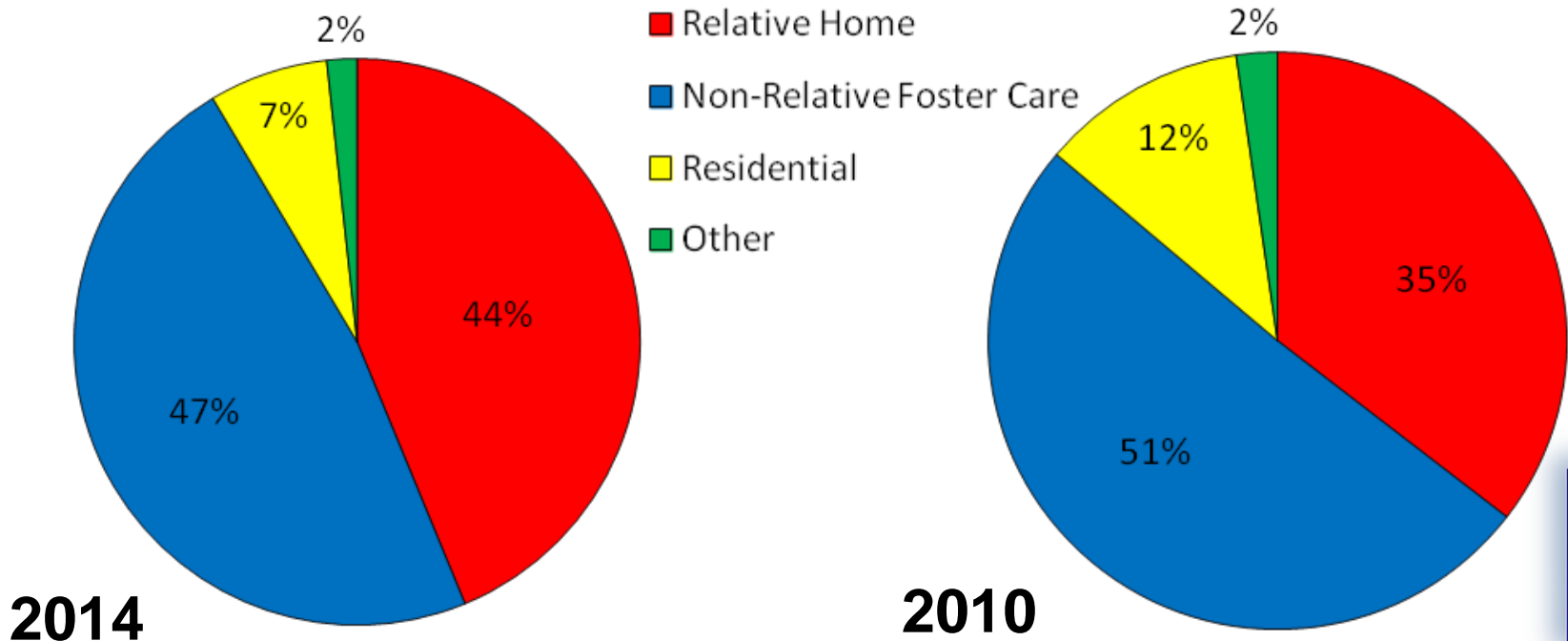
- License Types:
 - Group Home (IC 31-27-5 and 465 IAC 12 - 13)
 - Child Caring Institutions (IC 31-27-3 and 465 IAC 9 - 10)
 - Private Secure Facilities (IC 31-27-3 and 465 IAC 11)



Placement Types

- 14,763 open CHINS cases at the end of SFY 2014
- 10,550 (72%) were placed in out-of-home care

Out-of-Home Placement Breakdown



Collaborative Care

- Extension of foster care past age 18 with services designed to foster *interdependence* vs. independence
- Unique placement options
 - Foster care host homes
 - Supervised Independent Living
- Specialized Family Case Managers
 - Called Collaborative Care Case Managers (3CMs)
 - Receive specialized training and handle a caseload of youth 17.5 years of age and older only



Collaborative Care Eligibility

- Enrolled and attending an education or vocational program,
- Working 80 hours per month,
- Participating in a program to remove barriers to education or employment (ex: WorkOne or Older Youth Services provider), *or*
- Documented medical condition that prevents youth from participating in an education program or employment



Staffing & Caseloads



Caseload Methodology

- DCS uses 12/17 standard to calculate monthly caseload averages in 19 regions:
 - 12 active cases relating to initial assessments
 - 17 children monitored and supervised in ongoing cases



Plans to Address Caseloads

The Department is taking a two-pronged approach to address FCM caseloads:

1. Commissioning a field workload study
2. Promoting quality leadership through increased supervisor training



Workload Analysis

- The study will analyze tasks directly related to working on cases, as well as time spent on meetings, trainings, and administrative tasks
- The goal is to identify process and practice improvements to support quality case management, and to determine whether the existing statutory standard is an appropriate measure of staff caseloads



Promoting Quality Leadership

- DCS will continue to promote quality leadership at all levels of the agency
 - Refine supervisor training programs to ensure the ongoing training needs of its leaders are being met
 - Help management staff focus on team leadership, communication, and organizational ability





Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
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