Safely Home; Families First

• Newly formed Permanency and Practice Support Division
• Focus on SHFF, Permanency
• Central Office supports the Field through this Division
• Casey Family Programs provides technical support to DCS through this process
Safely Home; Families First

• Focus on Renewed and Redoubled Efforts to
  – Keep children in their own homes when they can be maintained safely
  – Find relatives for placement when children cannot remain in their own homes
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• Permanency and Practice Support Unit in Central Office provides:
  – Support for Permanency through
    • Permanency Teams
    • Permanency Roundtables
    • Adoption Unit
    • Youth Connections
    • Guardianship Program
  – Support for SHFF thru
    • Parent/Relative Locators
    • CANS expertise/assistance
    • Research Findings/Summaries on Website
    • Still developing more ideas for support such as inservices for additional skill development
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• Since beginning SHFF
  – Relative Care increased
  – Residential Care decreased
  – In Home CHINS increased
  – Siblings Kept Together increased
  – Children Waiting for Permanency days decreased
Comparison

November 2007

• Relative - 15.94%
• Residential - 10.42%
• Own Home – 27%
• Siblings Kept Together – 63.89%
• Days in out of home Placement – 460 days

January 2012

• Relative – 39.5%
• Residential – 7.7%
• Own Home – 30%
• Siblings Kept Together – 74.2%
• Days in out of home Placement - 393
Assessing for Protective Factors

Parental strengths that prevent and reduce the likelihood of abuse or neglect include 5 protective factors:

- Nurturing & Attachment
- Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development
- Family Functioning & Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports for Parents
Assessing for Protective Factors

Nurturing & Attachment

• 2 conditions that establish the closeness between the parent and the child.

• Nurturing is the result of the actions performed by the parent or caregiver to provide support and/or nourishment to help a child develop.

• Attachment is the connection or affection that exists between 2 individuals.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Nurturing & Attachment

- Exchange of smiles, hugs and kisses between child and parent
- Parent listens to child and is attentive and sensitive to child’s needs
- Parent speaks of child in positive terms even when discussing problems
- Parent participates in activities involving the child such as school, sports, play etc.
- Parent participates in activities that child wants/likes
- Parent expresses pride in child’s accomplishments
- Parent is able to soothe child
- Parent indicates happiness in being with the child
Assessing for Protective Factors

Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development

Parent knowledge is demonstrated through discussion and demonstration of age appropriate and effective child management techniques.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development

- Parents are realistic about expectations
- Parents provide clear and consistent messages
- Parent has some idea of what to do for child
- Parent provides structure and support
- Parent speaks to child in age appropriate manner
- Parent praises child when child behaves
- Parent can see misbehavior in the context of the child’s developmental needs
- Parent uses age appropriate discipline
Assessing for Protective Factors

Family Functioning and Resilience

• Family functioning is demonstrated by its ability to openly share positive and negative experiences and come together to accept, solve and manage problems on a day to day basis.

• Family resiliency is seen in the family’s ability to adapt and utilize strategies which will help them to persevere in times of crisis.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Family Functioning and Resilience

• Family members are able to talk about problems
• Family members are able to solve problems
• Family members listen to each other
• The family can discuss past problems that have been addressed successfully
• Family members are able to handle stress without significant negative consequences
• Family members pull together to address problems
Assessing for Protective Factors

Social Connections

Social connections are the friends, relatives and neighbors that provide social and emotional support to the parent and/or child.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Social Connections

• The parent is able to identify a person or people who the parent could go to ask for help
• The parent has people with whom he/she interacts frequently
• The extended family participates in activities together such as meals, recreation, holiday get togethers, etc.
• The family is involved Church activities
• The family participates in formal and informal social activities
• The child is active in school or other organized activities
• The child interacts appropriately with other children and adults
Concrete Supports for Parents

Concrete supports are the tangible goods and services available to assist the family in coping with stress.
Assessing for Protective Factors

**Signs of Concrete Supports for Parents**

- Public Assistance
- Health Clinics
- Child care subsidies
- Subsidized housing
- Food pantries
- Home visiting
- Child welfare services
- Literacy programs
- Job preparation and placement services
- Financial support from friends or family
Safely Home; Families First

Success Stories