



Annual Family Impact Report

**Director Mary Beth Bonaventura
Indiana Department of Child Services**

November 2014

Introduction

In 2005, DCS was created as a standalone agency charged with administering Indiana's child protection and IV-D child support systems. The Department is committed to improving protection and services to children and their families, and over the last nine years, DCS launched numerous initiatives to improve the administration of child welfare in Indiana.

In 2013, DCS experienced the first major change in leadership since its creation, when Governor Mike Pence appointed Judge Mary Beth Bonaventura to lead the cabinet-level agency. Bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the agency, Director Bonaventura most recently served as Senior Judge of the Lake Superior Court, Juvenile Division – one of the toughest juvenile divisions in the state. Judge Bonaventura was appointed Senior Judge in 1993 by then-Governor Evan Bayh, after having served more than a decade as a juvenile court magistrate.

Director Bonaventura leads a staff of approximately 3,400 employees, and the Department's infrastructure includes local offices in all 92 Indiana counties, organized into 18 geographic regions. An additional region encompasses Central Office case managers from the Institutional Assessment and Collaborative Care Units, for a total of 19 regions. In 2010, DCS added a centralized child abuse and neglect hotline in Indianapolis and has since added four regional hotline sites in Blackford, Lawrence, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh counties.

Since its creation, DCS has implemented a number of strategies and programs designed to achieve child welfare best practices and ensure the agency is successful in furthering its mission of protecting children from abuse and neglect. Director Bonaventura strongly supports Governor Mike Pence's vision and commitment to improve child protection services and to improve the well-being of Hoosier children and families. The Department's mission is to protect children who are victims of abuse or neglect and to strengthen families through services that focus on family support and preservation. DCS also administers child support, adoption, and foster care throughout the state of Indiana.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13-05, signed by Governor Pence on January 14, 2013, the Department is required to publish an Annual Family Impact Report to ensure that DCS will not disregard or disadvantage the formation and well-being of intact married families, intentionally or unintentionally, whenever promulgating rules. In formulating and implementing policies and rules that may have a significant impact on family formation and the general well-being of families, DCS shall assess such measures in light of the following determinations:

1. Whether or not the policy or rule strengthens or erodes the stability of the family and the marital commitment.
2. Whether or not the policy or rule encourages or discourages nonmarital childbearing.



Protecting our children, families, and future.

3. Whether or not the policy or rule respects or inhibits the rights of parents to raise their children and make the best choices about their children's education, health, and well-being.
4. Whether or not the policy or rule increases or decreases private family earnings or the incentive for parents to provide materially and emotionally for their children.
5. What message, intended or otherwise, the policy or rule, and the program to which it relates, sends to the public concerning the status of the family.
6. What message the policy or rule sends to children about the relationship between their present choices and their future well-being.

Protecting and preserving families is the heart of the Department's mission. In line with the requirements of Executive Order 13-05, we are continually studying ways to improve the administration of child welfare services in Indiana to better support intact families, and to identify and implement opportunities to strengthen the families we serve. In this Annual Family Impact Report, DCS will highlight several recent initiatives and collaborations that focus on family protection and preservation:

- Safely Home – Families First
- Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Project
- Children's Mental Health Initiative
- Comprehensive Home-Based Services
- Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- Governor's Adoption Study Committee

Safely Home – Families First

DCS is continually working to achieve improved outcomes for children and families by reviewing existing and emerging research to guide and inform our practice. Significant research shows that placement in the least restrictive, most family-like setting is in the best interest of children. In fact, both federal and state laws require that, along with child safety, the least restrictive environment is a primary concern when consideration by DCS is requested for placement of a child.

One of the Department's core values is that the most desirable place for children to grow up is in their own home, as long as the family is able to provide safety and security for the child. There are some situations when our decisions regarding the safety of a child lead us to determine the removal from the home is in the best interest of that child. In these circumstances, the possible risks of leaving a child with his or her own family are weighed against the knowledge that trauma occurs whenever a child is removed from the home.



When a child cannot be safely maintained in the home, we are committed to finding absent parents and relatives. We look for family members who know the child and who are familiar and comfortable to the child. These relatives have established relationships, and as such, the trauma of removal is mitigated because the child is with familiar people who desire to help the child feel included in their family. Our own Practice Indicators demonstrate that when children are placed with relatives, they are more likely to find permanency faster than when they are placed in non-relative environments.

After careful review of this information and data, we have centered our efforts over the coming years around the concept of keeping children in their own homes or with relatives. We refer to this concept as “Safely Home – Families First.” This is nothing new, but in fact is a renewed and heightened effort to provide for the well-being of our children by identifying those protective factors that will help keep a child at home safely, helping family members find resources and their own informal supports, and quickly locating relatives in the event a child is not able to remain in the home. There are many aspects to this effort, including the expansion of in-home support services, wraparound services, intensive family preservation, and intensive family reunification. Having those services available in a timely manner, at times when the services are needed, and with the flexibility to adjust to the needs of the family are absolutely necessary to the success of our Safely Home – Families First efforts.

Children desire and deserve to remain with their own families, to sleep in their own beds, and to be surrounded by their own belongings. They want to go to the same school, see their friends, and learn from the teachers they know. All children also should have a permanent lifetime home where they know they belong and are loved. They deserve to have that permanency established in a timely manner. It is important the Department acknowledge and want those things for them, and strive to do the best we can to ensure that children are with their own families when they can be so safely. After considering all the independent research, reviewing the successes of other states, and evaluating our own practice reports, the fidelity of our practice demands that we focus on meeting this basic longing for each individual child, which is why DCS is committed to Safely Home – Families First. The Department strongly believes that this model aligns with Governor Pence’s goals of promoting family-focused policies and programs.

Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Project

Along with the Department’s Safely Home – Families First model, Indiana’s federal Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Project (Waiver) is a key mechanism for providing a variety of services to strengthen and support families. Indiana has had the benefit of participating in the Waiver project since 1998, which provides Indiana the opportunity to use federal funds to test innovative approaches to child welfare service delivery and financing. Indiana’s federal Waiver was extended in 2003, 2005, 2010, and then again in 2012. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human



Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), approved the Waiver Terms and Conditions for an expansion of the State's Waiver project. The Waiver period is for five years, beginning July 1, 2012.

The Department's original Waiver (1998-2012) allowed a limited target population to participate in services. However, Indiana's 2012 Waiver extension includes all children under the age of 18 served by DCS, as well as their families, and provides Indiana with the flexibility to offer a broader array of services. The extension enables Waiver service provision to more closely mirror the Department's practice model and the Safely Home – Families First philosophy described earlier in this report. Safely Home – Families First is consistent with national best practice, emerging research, and the Department's effort to achieve improved outcomes for children.

In conjunction with Safely Home – Families First, the Waiver targets both Title IV-E eligible and Title IV-E ineligible youth who are at risk of or in out-of-home placement, as well as their parents, siblings, and caregivers. The target population served includes:

1. Children and families who have substantiated cases of abuse and/or neglect that will likely develop into an open case with an Informal Adjustment (IA) or Child in Need of Services (CHINS) status.
2. Children and their families that have an IA or children that have the status of CHINS or Juvenile Delinquency/Juvenile Status Offense (JD/JS).
3. Children with the status of CHINS or JD/JS and their foster/relative families with whom they are placed.

Through the Waiver, DCS uses innovative methods to ensure families are provided with services that meet their needs, and when possible, allow children to remain safely in their homes and preserving the family structure. Waiver funding is integral to the Department's delivery of services and enables DCS to offer an expanded array of concrete goods and services to help sustain families. These types of services have historically only been available through other funding sources. Some of the concrete services supported by Waiver funding include payment of utility bills, vehicle repairs, before/after school care, respite care, baby monitors, and cleaning of the home environment. These are valuable services for families that often prevent the need for removal, keeping families intact whenever possible.

The Waiver also allows Indiana to invest in an improved and expanded array of in-home and community-based family preservation, reunification, and adoption services. Examples of new programs implemented due to the flexibility of the Waiver include the Children's Mental Health Initiative (discussed later in this report), a family evaluation/multi-disciplinary team, Child Parent Psychotherapy, Sobriety Treatment And Recovery Teams, and comprehensive home-based services,



which include Family Centered Treatment, Motivational Interviewing, and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Indiana's Waiver project remains focused on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of child welfare services through expanded eligibility and a broader service array, and these efforts will help the Department better support children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Children's Mental Health Initiative

Many Hoosier youth struggle with mental health issues but have difficulty accessing services due to their families' inability to pay, and this struggle to access appropriate services can put a strain on families. Indiana has many existing services to treat mental health and behavioral health issues, but the only individuals who were able to afford the treatment were those eligible for Medicaid, with private insurance, or being served through DCS or probation. In an effort to receive services, children and families would often get bounced from agency to agency and would frequently end up in the child welfare or juvenile delinquency systems, even when no child abuse, neglect, or delinquency had occurred.

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012, DCS and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) began collaborating to find a solution to this issue by building a continuum of care for children with complex mental or behavioral health needs who were at risk for entering the child welfare or juvenile delinquency system. Key beliefs that guided the efforts toward finding a solution were that the solution must consider what is best for children and families, and that children should not have to be designated a "Child in Need of Services" (CHINS) or a juvenile delinquent for the sole purpose of accessing services. Greater communication and collaboration between agencies was critical in providing the best possible solution to serve Hoosier children and their families.

An analysis of the current system demonstrated that Indiana had many existing services for youth with mental health struggles. Available resources include Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Transition Waiver (CA-PRTF), application for state plan amendment 1915i, access sites, Medicaid Rehab Option (MRO) and clinic services, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, and the DCS master contract with the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). Building upon existing resources, DCS and FSSA decided the best approach for children and families would be to tap into Indiana's existing service structure, resulting in the creation of the Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI).

The CMHI allows children and families to access intensive wraparound and residential services, funded by DCS, without court intervention. This Initiative is a major change in how Indiana provides services to youth with mental health issues. Historically, this population has been unable to access these services without becoming a ward of the state or entering the juvenile probation system, both requiring the intervention of the court.



The CMHI ensures access to high level services managed by a wraparound facilitator through the CMHC system for those previously unable to afford services. Using the CMHC Access Site system enables DCS to streamline the process for families. This new process does not require children and families to navigate separate systems to receive services; instead they can go directly to the Access Site for an assessment. The Access Site determines whether or not the youth is eligible for services, regardless of how the services would be paid. The target group eligibility for the CMHI is:

- Children age 6 through 17
- Children who are experiencing significant emotional and/or functional impairments that impact their level of functioning at home or in the community (e.g., seriously emotionally disturbed classification)
- Children not eligible for Medicaid
- Children who meet needs based criteria: DSM-IV-TR diagnosis, dysfunctional behavior, or Family Functioning Support

Children who meet the eligibility but also have Medicaid will be served through the Medicaid program. Children who are not Medicaid eligible and have no private insurance will receive services funded, but not managed, by DCS. In order to ensure that services are available for families in all areas of the state, DMHA assisted with building Access Sites statewide. Both DCS and FSSA are monitoring services and a state agency workgroup was created to help monitor the rollout of this program, including identifying and overcoming obstacles that arise.

Families are only referred to DCS if it is determined that services are needed in order to maintain the safety of the child and/or other children in the home, the family or child is unwilling to voluntarily accept services, and/or the family insists that the child be removed despite a CMHC assessment that indicates the child can be maintained in home with services. In this event, DCS completes a child abuse or neglect assessment to determine whether the coercive intervention of the court is needed to require the family to participate in services.

Community involvement is critical to the success of this program, and anyone is able to refer a child to the Access Site for assessment. The CMHI roll out began in November 2012 and is now available in all 92 counties. Early analysis shows these services are keeping children safely at home and out of the child welfare system. More importantly, the CMHI is providing a mechanism to provide mental health services for those families in crisis. At the end of SFY 2014, 1,108 referrals were made to the program, and 326 children received services. Families who are not able to be served through the CMHI are connected to other available services in the community.



Comprehensive Home-Based Services

As a part of its efforts to strengthen the use of evidence-based treatment practices in Indiana, DCS began contracting for Comprehensive Home-Based Services in 2013. Comprehensive Home-Based Services is a family-centered approach that offers short and long-term behavioral health care to the entire family. These services focus on the reduction of child maltreatment through services that improve caretaking skills, family resilience, healthy relationship building, and the child's physical, mental, emotional, and educational well-being. This holistic approach uses current, evidence-based models to help families overcome complex challenges surrounding child maltreatment.

Providers offering Comprehensive Home-Based Services are required to utilize an Evidence-Based Practice model in service implementation. Examples of the evidence-based models used by Comprehensive Home-Based service providers include, but are not limited to:

- Family-Centered Treatment,
- Motivational Interviewing,
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and
- Child Parent Psychotherapy.

Comprehensive Home-Based Services are delivered using a trauma-informed, strengths-based, and inclusive service model. Providers engage clients and families in a way that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives. Services are delivered in a way that reflects the strengths of the family, ensuring the family feels respected, informed, connected, and hopeful regarding their own future. This type of service is integral to the Department's belief that families should be supported and strengthened as they work to transition out of the child welfare system.

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

While the Department's mission is to serve children and their families, we acknowledge that we cannot do this work alone and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders and other state agencies to improve the delivery of child welfare services in Indiana. One example of that multi-agency collaboration is the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (Commission). During the 2013 session, the General Assembly created the Commission in Senate Enrolled Act 125. The Committee is charged with studying and evaluating services for vulnerable youth, promoting information-sharing and best practices, and reviewing and making recommendations concerning pending legislation.



The Commission is comprised of 18 members from the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, as well as local government officials. The Commission was created to bring together all governmental agencies that work with youth to address:

- Access, availability, duplication, funding, and barriers to services,
- Communication and cooperation by agencies,
- Implementation of programs or laws concerning vulnerable youth,
- The consolidation of existing entities concerning vulnerable youth, and
- Data from state agencies relevant to evaluating progress, targeting efforts, and demonstrating outcomes.

The Commission began meeting in August 2013 and has held eight meetings to date. At each meeting, the Commission hears from experts from around the state on topics relating to vulnerable youth and can elect to look into the topic further, create a task force, or make recommendations. The Commission includes six task forces as listed below:

- Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force
- Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force
- Department of Child Services Oversight Committee
- Cross-System Youth Task Force
- Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force
- Educational Outcomes Task Force

The task forces are comprised of subject matter experts from around the state. The members represent legislators, juvenile judges, juvenile probation, state agencies, supreme court, Casey Family Programs, court appointed special advocates (CASA), prosecutors, service providers, school professionals, lawyers, public defenders, law enforcement agencies, college education professionals, EMS, hospitals, universities, mental health centers, child advocates, Indiana State Police, and youth advocacy organizations. DCS has a representative on each task force. The Commission is a great example of state agencies and outside stakeholders joining together to serve Indiana children and families.

Governor's Adoption Study Committee

The Department supports all possibilities for children to find permanent families, and as such, it offers services and activities designed to encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system, when adoptions promote the best interests of children. Such services and activities are designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families. This includes preparing the child for adoption with regard to loyalty, grief, and loss issues related to their birth family, as well as evaluating a prospective adoptive family and making a recommendation regarding appropriateness of the family to adopt special needs children.



House Enrolled Act 1222, passed in the 2014 session, created the Indiana Adoption Study Committee (Committee) with the goal of making Indiana the most adoption-friendly state in the nation. The Committee consists of nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- One representative from a licensed child placing agency that provides adoption services,
- One parent who adopted a child who was a ward of DCS,
- One parent who adopted a child through a private adoption,
- One court appointed special advocate (CASA)
- Two representatives from DCS, one of whom must be an attorney,
- Two judges who have experience with adoption cases, and
- One person chosen at the Governor's discretion.

House Enrolled Act 1222 charged the Committee with studying how other states have partnered with private, faith based, and community entities to provide adoption services. Specifically, the Committee is studying existing public and private adoption programs, services available in public adoption programs, and the legal and regulatory costs associated with foster care and private adoption in Indiana. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Governor, DCS, and the legislature concerning improving adoption programs in Indiana.

To date, the Committee has met three times and has studied adoption awareness and brainstormed different methods of promoting adoption statewide. At its most recent meeting, the Committee discussed ways to break down barriers that might prevent otherwise able and willing families from adopting children in need of permanent homes. In the future, the Committee plans to look into ways to develop resources for adoptive families and recruit for new adoptive families. DCS hopes to use the Committee's final recommendations to help strengthen its adoption program and make Indiana the most adoption-friendly state in the nation.

Goals to Help Strengthen and Preserve Families

Protecting and supporting families is the core of the Department's mission and vision. To that end, the Department's future objectives include improving placement stability for children, increasing prevention and preservation service options, and expanding placement and permanency options. The Department has several goals for improving the delivery of child welfare services that will help improve the well-being and security of children and families:

- Increased Permanency Options
- New INvest Child Support System
- State Adoption Subsidy



Increased Permanency Options

As mentioned previously, one of the Department's core values is that all children deserve a safe and permanent home. A focus on permanency begins at the beginning of a case – it starts with looking at ways for the child to be able to remain in the home, and it ends with transitioning the family out of the child welfare system so they can maintain a safe home environment without DCS presence. To meet this goal, DCS will improve placement stability of children through proper identification of placement options based on the child's individualized needs and will provide support for that placement to avoid disruption. This will increase the effectiveness of the Department's foster and adoptive placements.

DCS believes that the most desirable place for children to grow up is in their own home, as long as the family is able to provide safety and security for the child. However, some situations exist which lead to a determination that removal from the home is best for the child. If a child cannot safely remain in his or her home, the Department believes that out-of-home placement with a fit and willing relative is the best option.

In the 2014 legislative session, House Enrolled Act 1110 amended the definition of "relative" to include those individuals that have a significant and established relationship with a child. Previously, when an out-of-home placement was necessary for a child, DCS was limited to recommending placements to only relatives or licensed foster homes. This restricted DCS from placing a child in a home that might have been in his or her best interests. Expanding the definition of who can be considered a "relative" to a child allows more flexibility when recommending placements. This flexibility helps mitigate the trauma caused to a child when he or she is removed from home by allowing the child to be placed with a familiar person with whom the child has an established relationship. The Department is also evaluating the resources available to relative caregivers and is studying its policies and procedures to ensure that these caregivers are well supported.

Additionally, the Department seeks to improve the placement stability of children in foster and adoptive homes. While DCS does have an emphasis on keeping children in the home whenever possible, it is important to note that there will always be a need and role for dedicated foster parents. When children are not able to remain safely in their own home, the Department is fortunate to have foster families available who can provide these children a safe, stable, loving, home-like environment. DCS recognizes that foster parents open their homes and hearts to children in need of temporary care; a task both rewarding and difficult. With the help of dedicated foster parents, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens will either reunite safely with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families. DCS will continue to rely on all Hoosiers to join in helping change the lives of children in foster care.



The Department's goal is to expand resources available to foster and pre-adoptive parents, increase the effectiveness of matching foster children to appropriate resource homes, minimize the number of disrupted placements, and maximize retention of resource families. Providing stable placements and ensuring that those placements meet each child's unique needs will help ensure that children are well-equipped to eventually transition out of the child welfare system.

New INvest Child Support System

The Department believes that every child has the right to the financial support of both parents, whether or not the parents are married or live together in the home with the child. The Indiana DCS Child Support Bureau (CSB), in conjunction with its county partners, enforces this right. Title IV-D of the Federal Social Security Act requires every state to operate a child support program to perform parental locate functions, paternity establishment, support order establishment and enforcement, payment processing, and child support disbursement. In Indiana, the Title IV-D Child Support Program is administered by the DCS Child Support Bureau and is carried out locally by the county prosecutor's offices, the county clerk's offices, and the courts.

In order to administer the IV-D program, states are required to have a federally certified, statewide, automated computer system. Indiana's system is called the Indiana Support Enforcement Tracking System (ISETS). Federal mandates regarding the system's functionality result in a very complex system with 509 screens, 1946 programs, 2.3 million lines of code, and 200 interface files with various federal and state systems. ISETS is responsible for maintaining approximately 287,000 Title IV-D cases and approximately 150,000 non-IV-D (private) cases, and it processes almost \$1 billion in child support payments annually.

ISETS is a legacy system built on dying technology and is long overdue for replacement. Although the system was developed in the mid-1990's, the original technology was developed in the late 1980's. Its rate of decline appears to be increasing because portions of its technology are no longer supported, making it difficult and extremely expensive to make system changes. This results in growing costs in both technology changes and staffing, an inability to provide changes to improve child support workers' productivity, and difficulty in meeting federal/state mandated functionality changes and audit requirements.

To address these issues, the DCS Child Support Bureau (CSB) embarked on a multi-year project, in conjunction with its county partners, to build and launch a new child support system. The new system will be called the Indiana Verification and Enforcement of Support (INvest). INvest will have a number of benefits, including increased collections for families, increased opportunity for collaboration, and decreased maintenance costs. State child support systems are highly regulated by the federal government, much of this due to the significant federal investment provided to states for IV-D activities. In order to receive federal funding for the INvest project, Indiana must meet a



number of different federal procedural requirements before beginning the system build. Moreover, the system itself must meet certain functional requirements.

The first steps in the federal approval process were the Planning Advanced Planning Document (PAPD) and completion of a Federal Feasibility Study. The Federal Feasibility Study requires Indiana to evaluate various approaches to the system build and decide whether the most cost effective use of time and resources is to maintain the status quo, transfer another state's system or custom build a new system. CSB must demonstrate that all options were evaluated and include a cost-benefit analysis for each approach. The federal government will also evaluate the risk, requirements and cost-benefits of the proposal. In order to move forward with the system build, CSB must receive approval from the federal government.

Once the approach is approved, CSB will seek to engage third party vendor(s) to assist with the INvest system build. During SFY 2015, the CSB plans to release several Requests for Services (RFS) to initiate this process. CSB will require the vendors to not only work with them on the system build, but to support CSB and its partners with training and assistance after implementation.

While INvest will take many years to complete, the Department's strategic plan for this project includes the following goals for SFYs 2015-2017:

- Receive Federal approval on the Implementation Advanced Planning Document (IAPD) to secure funding for INvest,
- Have state staff organized and ready to support and oversee the INvest project as well as maintenance of the ISETS legacy application,
- Select highly qualified vendors for the INvest project to do the build and implementation, change management, quality assurance and IV&V activities, and
- Kickoff and begin the INvest project.

Once implemented, this system will help get child support monies to more kids, better enabling Indiana to ensure the financial well-being of Hoosier children and increase the economic opportunities that children have available to them.

State Adoption Subsidy

In order to better assist families who adopt children from the state's foster care system, the Department offers adoption assistance to families who adopt eligible children from the state's foster care system. One form of assistance is the State Adoption Subsidy (SAS), a monthly payment



to parents of children that meet special needs requirements as defined by state and federal law. The purpose of the per diem is to help support children with special needs by providing adoptive parents financial resources to help meet the child's needs until the child reaches age 18.

Prior to SFY 2015, families were placed on a waiting list until funding for the program could be secured. Beginning July 1, 2014, DCS was authorized to provide funding for state subsidies for all children on the waitlist, as well as any children who may become eligible during SFY 2015. The Department is currently working with adoptive parents of children on the state subsidy waitlist regarding the process for receiving payments.

To continue the State Adoption Subsidy in future years, the Department is requesting additional funding from the General Assembly in its SFY 2016/2017 budget. An \$11.2 million increase is proposed to continue funding SAS for nearly 1,600 children in SFY 2016. In SFY 2017, a proposed increase of \$11.4 million would continue SAS for more than 1,600 children.

Conclusion

The Department is proud of its efforts to promote and support families in Indiana, but this work is never finished. Taking Governor Pence's lead, DCS will continue to develop policies and programs that protect Hoosier children and help strengthen the families we serve. Pursuant to Executive Order 13-05, the Department will be cognizant of the impact of its administrative rules and will ensure that any future rules will not disadvantage the formation and well-being of intact married families. DCS will continue to work to ensure that children can remain home whenever possible, when they are able to do so safely.

