

Senate Task Force on Department of Children Youth and Families and the Family Care Network



September 16, 2014



Children's Friend

- 180 year history
- Not part of either network
- Blend of child welfare, social services, and early education
- Focus area for services is families with children 6 and under

Expected Outcomes for Phase II

- Improved rate of sustained reunification
- Prevention of maltreatment
- Timely permanency for children and youth
- Community safety
- Educational Stability
- Successful transitions to adulthood

Challenges

- Lack of Prevention
- Lack of Communication and Accountability
- Too few and wasted resources

Lack of Prevention

- Historically RI has under-invested in prevention
- That trend continues, and is even worse today
- Not just in child welfare, across the State
- Families are impacted by more than one system

Lack of Communication and Accountability

- Lead agencies - not independent networks
- Information is often not widely communicated
- Consistent outcomes are not reported publicly

Too Few and Wasted Resources

- System over budget and then additional budget cuts imposed
- Network Care Coordinators
 - Unnecessary step in the system
 - Duplicative resource
 - Sometimes a barrier
 - Too expensive in an underfunded system

Short-Term Action

- Serve kids through June 30th
 - Redirect resources as possible
 - Do not create more turmoil/confusion
 - Eliminate Network Care Coordinators
 - Address contractual issues
 - Increase resources

Mid-Term Actions

- **Increase Communication**
 - Gather and use input from all constituents
 - Limit decisions only involving DCYF and leads
- **Measure and report outcomes**
 - Are kids better off
 - Is the system effective and efficient
- **Inclusive and broad based planning**
 - High level and broad facilitation
 - Long term planning

Long Term Actions

- Make investments in prevention first
- Build a statewide culture that these are our kids
- Build an integrated and up to date technology infrastructure

Thank You

● **Questions?**



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Making a difference...
One child at a time.

153 Summer Street
Providence, RI 02903
401.276.4300

childrensfriendri.org