

RHODE ISLAND

TITLE IV-B FFY 2019 ANNUAL PROGRESS
AND SERVICES REPORT



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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Table of Contents

General Information.....	5
Introduction	5
Collaboration.....	6
Update on Assessment of Performance	7
Update to the Plan for Improvement.....	7
Update on Progress Made to Improve Outcomes	8
Child and Family Services Plan 2015-2019 Update on Progress	8
Goal I: Rightsizing and Improving Congregate Care to Minimize Placement Disruptions and Improve Child/Youth Well Being.....	8
Goal II: Diligent Recruitment For Foster and Adoptive Families To Ensure Every Child Has a Safe, Compatible Home	28
Goal III: Improve the Overall Safety of Children in Our Care.....	43
Goal IV: Improve the Overall Safety of Children in Our Care	44
Update on Service Description.....	46
Service Descriptions:	46
Title IV-B, Subpart 1	46
Title IV-B, Subpart 2	47
Populations at Greatest Risk for Maltreatment	49
Services for Children Under the Age of Five	52
Services for Children Adopted from Other Countries.....	55
Program Support.....	55
Consultation and Coordination Between States and Tribes.....	56
Monthly Caseworker Visit Formula Grant	57
Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments.....	58
Child Welfare Demonstration Activities	58
Quality Assurance System.....	58
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Plan Requirements.....	65
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	65
Consolidated Youth Services Program	65
Real Connections Mentoring	66
Life Skills Assessment and Individualized Life Skills Education.....	66
ASPIRE Initiative [Rhode Island’s Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (JCYOI)]	68

Educational Services and Supports	68
Employment/Vocational Development Services.....	68
Assistance with Implementation of NYTD	69
Youth Engagement and Youth as Partners	69
Program Evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement	70
Young Adults Establishing Self-Sufficiency (YESS) – Voluntary Aftercare Services for Youth Aging out of DCYF Care	71
Teen Grants and Material supports	71
Leveraged Opportunities.....	73
RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) Youth Workforce Development	73
Farm Fresh Rhode Island/The Harvest Kitchen Project/RI Office of Rehabilitation.....	74
Housing/Runaway and Homeless youth:	75
Voluntary Extension of Care	75
Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage	75
2015-2019 Goals & Accomplishments	75
Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011	108
Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program	109
Fund Administration	113
Updates to Targeted Plans within the 2015-2019 CFSP	113
Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan.....	113
Health Care Oversight and Coordination.....	113
Disaster Plan.....	114
Training Plan.....	114
Statistical and Supporting Information	114
Information on Child Protective Service Workforce	114
Juvenile Justice Transfers.....	114
Child Maltreatment Deaths	114
Inter-Country Adoptions	115
Financial Information	115
FFY 2015 State Expenditures as Compared to FY 1992 Baseline	115
Allocation of Funds.....	115
Title IV-B, Subpart 1:	115
Title IV-B, Subpart 2:	115

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Appropriation	115
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Appropriation:	116
Monthly Caseworker Visits Program Appropriation:.....	116
Other Expenditures	116
CFS 101, Part III Funding Difference in Estimated to Actual Expenditures	117

General Information

Introduction

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has combined responsibility for child welfare, juvenile justice and children's behavioral health services. The agency was created in 1980 and is statutorily designated as the *"principal agency of the state to mobilize the human, physical, and financial resources available to plan, develop, and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated statewide program of services designed to ensure the opportunity for children to reach their full potential. Such services shall include prevention, early intervention, outreach, placement, care and treatment, and aftercare programs. The Department shall also serve as an advocate for the needs of children."* (RIGL 42-72-5).

DCYF is guided by strong vision and mission statements that were developed by a cross-section of the Department's staff:

Vision – *Healthy Children and Youth, Strong Families, Diverse Caring Communities.*

Mission – *Partner with families and communities to raise safe and healthy children and youth in a caring environment.*

To carry out its vision and mission, the Department provides a continuum of services ranging from community- and home-based services to residential treatment. These services address a multitude of child and family needs including child abuse/neglect prevention, child protection, children's behavioral health and education, support services for children and families in need, and services for youth with wayward and delinquent behaviors.

DCYF's combined responsibility for these populations positions the agency well for working in concert with other state departments, community-based agencies, and family representatives to continuously develop and improve strategies through the Title IV-B Child and Family Service Plan that address fundamental needs of children and families.

DCYF is a state administered child welfare system with a centralized child protection operation. There are four regionalized offices to promote a more community-based service system within the state. Each DCYF Region has a Regional Director and family service units (FSU) with social caseworkers who are responsible for case management and visitation schedules for families with cases open to the Department. Children and families are assigned to family service caseworkers on a regional basis.

The Region I family service area covers the city of Providence. Region II is the smallest region representing 10 communities along the East Bay of Rhode Island stretching from Bristol County down through Newport. Region III represents the middle and southern part of the state in Kent and Washington Counties; it is the most rural of the regions, comprising 14 communities, including the Town of New Shoreham (Block Island). Region IV includes all of Providence County except the city of Providence. Region IV includes Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket, communities with high rates of child poverty.

Juvenile Probation/Parole officers are located throughout the state inside (or near) the County court houses. Youth sentenced to probation/parole are assigned to the probation/parole office either closest to their residence or in the County in which the charges were filed. The Thomas C. Slater Training School for Youth, located in the Cranston, is the state's only juvenile correctional facility. The Department's Central Office is located in Providence. This includes the Office of the Director, Management and Budget, Community Services and Behavioral Health, Central Referral Unit, Licensing and Regulatory

Affairs, Policy, Youth Development and Educational Support Services, Public Relations, Government Affairs, and Contracts and Program Development, and Legal Services.

See Appendix A for DCYF's Organizational Chart.

Collaboration

The Department has engaged in ongoing collaboration with child welfare stakeholders in the implementation of the 2015-2019 CFSP and subsequent APSRs.

During the past year, DCYF involved a diverse array of stakeholders in the development of the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) Statewide Self-Assessment and during preparations for the CFSR site visit, held June 4-8th, 2018. To kick-off this process, the Department hosted an internal and external stakeholders' conference held on June 8, 2017 at a conference space at Amica Insurance Company in Lincoln, Rhode Island. The half-day conference included an overview of the CFSR and Statewide Self-Assessment and was attended by a variety of Rhode Island child welfare stakeholders, including representatives from the following groups: DCYF, Family Court, Child Advocate's Office, Rhode Island General Assembly, Narragansett Tribe, Rhode Island College School of Social Work, the federal Children's Bureau, provider agencies, foster parents, as well as parent and youth representatives.

DCYF has a standardized process used to gather input from the Narragansett Indian Tribe that is based on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and In-Demand Training (2016). DCYF notifies, exchanges information, and consults directly with Tribe representatives Wenonah Harris and Anemone Mars. The DCYF Liaison ensures that notification is made to the Tribal Liaison when a family who identifies as Native American enters the DCYF system. In addition, bi-monthly meetings are held to discuss general practice, as well as to review specific families when needed. Regular phone and e-mail contact occurs between Tribal representatives and DCYF staff responsible for the coordination of care and services to each family.

Director Trista Piccola has maintained DCYF's engagement with the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, an advocacy coalition made up of DCYF provider agencies. In addition, DCYF's consultants (Harvard, Annie E. Casey, Casey Family Programs) have engaged in conversations with providers regarding the services they deliver for our children and families. These discussions have provided opportunities to review the goals and objectives articulated in the CFSP and obtain feedback on how we are perceived to be doing and how we might be able to be more effective.

DCYF continues to utilize "Active Contract Management" (ACM), a framework by which the Department shares data with providers on outcomes and process measures relevant to the services they provide. The team then works together to find solutions and make improvements on those outcome areas and track progress. This is a concept that has shown good results with our Family Care Community Partners (FCCP), where ACM has been successful in improving assessment completion times and timeliness of first face-to-face visit with the family. The Department recently expanded the ACM process with group home and semi-independent living providers for teens where we hope to achieve similar successes.

The Department has also engaged in collaboration in the implementation of the Title IV-E State Plan Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Rhode Island's IV-E PIP went into effect on May 11, 2017. In working towards meeting our PIP goals, DCYF has worked closely with the Family Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Office of the Child Advocate on several items related to the implementation of several provisions of the *Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act*.

Update on Assessment of Performance

Please see Rhode Island's CFSR Statewide Self-Assessment on the data page of DCYF's website:
www.dcyf.ri.gov/data_evaluation.php

Update to the Plan for Improvement

DCYF added an additional goal to the FY 2019 APSR: *"Goal IV: Improve Organizational Health and Combat Secondary Traumatic Stress."* A similar goal about employee wellness was included in the original 2015-2019 CFSP; however, it was removed in the FY2017 APSR because the Department had shifted priorities and was no longer participating in the activities identified in that goal. Organizational health is a priority of the current administration and the addition of the goal in the FY2019 APSR is a demonstration of this commitment. See the Update on Progress Made to Improve Outcomes section below for details about this change.

Update on Progress Made to Improve Outcomes

Child and Family Services Plan 2015-2019 Update on Progress

Goal I: Rightsizing and Improving Congregate Care to Minimize Placement Disruptions and Improve Child/Youth Well Being

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
1.1 Expand and increase array of family preservation services.	<p>(a) Establish additional evidence-based practice models that ensure effective family treatment options and choices.</p> <p>(b) Ensure emphasis on and competence in trauma-focused care for all EBPs.</p> <p>(c) Implement short-term clinical stabilization crisis response team.</p> <p>(d) Establish additional services to support non-clinical issues, e.g., behavioral strategies and parenting skills.</p> <p>(e) Increase community awareness and access for engagement with Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCPs).</p>	<p>Evidence-Based Practice Models are established.</p> <p>EBP staff are trained in trauma-focused care</p> <p>Crisis stabilization response team is established.</p> <p>Non-clinical services focusing on behavioral strategies/parenting skills are established.</p> <p>Increase in community referrals to FCCPs.</p>	<p>1.1 (a) As reported in the FY 2018 APSR submission, in 2017 the Department entered into 116 new contracts for home and community based services, as well as placement based services. The department continues to work on contractual performance measures in all contracts for provider accountability in desired outcomes. Contracts also contain provisions for incentive based payments to encourage performance in reduction of misuse of congregate care.</p> <p>In early 2018, the Department contracted with a service provider to offer the Familias Unidas program, a family-based intervention to promote protection against, and reduce risk for, behavior problems, illicit drug use, alcohol use, cigarette use, and unsafe sexual behavior in Hispanic youth and adolescents.</p> <p>Also in 2018, the Department entered into new contracts for five regional Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCP's). Previously, the FCCP's had been divided</p>	<p>Safety-1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.</p> <p>Safety-2: Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Systemic Factor V: Service Array and Resource Development.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>into four regions. The addition of a new FCCP service provider and the reconfiguration of the FCCP regions is intended to allow for greater access and coordination of services at the community level.</p> <p>DCYF continues to practice Active Contract Management (ACM) with each FCCP provider, with the continued assistance of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Through ACM, the Department engages FCCP providers in a collaborative effort to share and reflect on outcomes data, review the FCCP service model, and ultimately better serve and preserve families. The Department consistently meets with the FCCP providers two times per month with a monthly meeting with the Director to review data and reflect on lessons learned and discuss all best practices.</p> <p>1.2 (b) There have been no changes during the past year in the array of available EBP's focused on trauma focused care. The following EBP's continue to be available: Trauma Systems Therapy (TST), Family Centered Therapy (FCT), Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), and Teen Assertive</p>	

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>Community Teaming (Teen ACT). mechanism for these programs.</p> <p>1.1 (c) The Department has not issued an RFP for a Mobile Crisis Intervention Team and is reconsidering its initial plans to do so. DCYF has contracted with several programs that include a 24-hour response capability.</p> <p>1.1 (d) DCYF continues to offer services that support non-clinical needs of children and families, including Parent Partner Services (PPS), Parenting with Loving Limits (PLL), Homebuilders, and other programs. A full list of programs is attached as Appendix B (please note that this list of programs does not include the Familias Unidas program, which was added to the service array in early 2018).</p> <p>1.1 (e) In the recent procurement of the FCCP contracts, agencies were scored on their ability to conduct community outreach to identify and successfully engage families in the community who are at risk of involvement with DCYF and build strong networks of community resources available to support families.</p> <p>Community referrals to the FCCPs have held steady over the past year,</p>	

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>representing approximately half of all referrals during CY2017.</p> <p>CY2013 1st and 2nd quarters: Community referrals were 39.5%</p> <p>CY2013 3rd and 4th quarters: 38.4%</p> <p>CY2014 1st and 2nd quarters: 40.0%</p> <p>CY2014 3rd and 4th quarters: 40.5%</p> <p>CY2015 1st and 2nd quarters: 40.6%</p> <p>CY2015 3rd and 4th quarters: 42.0%</p> <p>CY2016 1st and 2nd quarters: 42.6%</p> <p>CY2016 3rd and 4th quarters: 48.2%</p> <p>CY 2017 1st and 2nd quarters: 50.6%</p> <p>CY 2017 3rd and 4th quarters: 49.2%</p>	
1.2 Install successful programs designed to divert youth from placement.	<p>(a) Work with the provider community to identify evidence-based and evidence-informed service models that have demonstrated success in diverting youth from residential placement.</p> <p>(b) Work with provider community to implement identified successful service models.</p> <p>(c) Establish a clinical assessment support team to work with the DCYF</p>	<p>Successful service models are identified.</p> <p>Successful models implemented.</p> <p>Funding diverted from residential programs will be used to expand successful models.</p> <p>Clinical Assessment Support Team established.</p>	<p>1.2 (a) The Department anticipates that the Familias Unidas program will help Hispanic families with teenagers at risk for placement in residential care.</p> <p>Children and families served by DCYF continue to benefit from the following evidence based and evidence informed home-based services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma Systems Therapy • Family-Centered Treatment • Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) 	<p>Safety-2: Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Permanency-1: Children have permanency and</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	<p>Intake Unit to assist in assessing appropriate intervention to avert placement.</p> <p>(d) Support implementation of additional community-based programs through realized reductions in congregate care settings.</p>	<p>Improve % of youth at home who receive community-based services and do not enter care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen Assertive Community Treatment • Parenting with Love and Limits • Multi Systemic Therapy • TF-CBT and AF-CBT <p>1.2 (b) The Department continually seeks input from the provider community and uses invoice expenditure for services to understand the needs of the children, youth and families. The department is committed to active contract management to ensure collaboration with providers to enhance performance ensure successful service models.</p> <p>1.2 (c) The SMART clinical assessment teams are no longer active since the contract with the Networks of Care ended. DCYF's Intake Unit continues to have access clinical support from the Central Referral Unit (CRU), which was established when the Networks of Care ended.</p> <p>1.2 (d) The Department is committed to eliminating the unnecessary use of residential placements. During the comprehensive re-procurement of services in 2016, approximately 90 of the 116 contracts were for home-based services.</p>	<p>stability in their living situations.</p> <p>Systemic Factor V:</p> <p>Service Array and Resource Development.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
1.3 Expand and increase the array of community-based services to support reunification, preventing re-entries into care.	<p>(a) Ensure emphasis on and competence in trauma-focused care for all congregate care staff.</p> <p>(b) Identify and address barriers to family involvement when youth is in congregate care</p> <p>(c) Establish transition services that work with families and youth while youth is in congregate care (focus on needs of whole family – parents and youth)</p> <p>(d) Ensure family involvement for youth in congregate care.</p> <p>(e) Ensure transition services, including wraparound, continue to provide aftercare support and monitoring for youth/family returning home.</p>	<p>Improve % of children/youth that are maintained safely in their homes without re-entry.</p> <p>Re-procurement of service array.</p>	<p>1.3 (a-e) DCYF's procurement of a new service array in 2016 emphasized programs that demonstrate competence in trauma-focused care, reduce barriers to family involvement, and work with families while a youth is in congregate care. A full description of congregate care programs and the therapeutic services they provide can be found in Appendix B.</p> <p>The Department has continued to use Expedited Permanency Meetings (EPM) in to help move children out of residential facilities and into families. The practice was developed from the recognition that many children currently living in group placements can live in families. EPM aims to sharply reduce the number of children living in unnecessary group care placements, overcome barriers to raising children in families and ensure that once EPMs get children out of unnecessarily restrictive settings, more children do not take their place.</p> <p>EPM is a three-part process that includes preparatory work, a team meeting and structured follow-up.</p> <p>EPM has been in effect for the last two years. The identification of youths that may</p>	<p>Safety-2: Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.</p> <p>Well-Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.</p> <p>Systemic Factor V: Service Array and Resource Development.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>require an EPM is no longer done through cohorts. As of January 2018, youths whose treatment needs no longer warrant a congregate care setting are identified as needing an Expediated Permanency Meeting (EPM) through DCYF's Utilization Management Unit. In addition to facilitating EPM's, the facilitator's will also assist with family and youth engagement at the RITS, the child fatality/near fatality reviews, the CFSR, Partnering with the Department's permanency support team to work specifically with the FFA / guardianship youth identifying barriers to permanency and coaching to PST staff, and assist and support the direct care staff in developing plans to move kids to permanency.</p> <p>In June of 2018, an EPM pilot program with our congregate care providers will be implemented. The goal of this pilot will be to increase the number of young people stepping down within 6 months of entry into a congregate care facility</p> <p>Congregate care providers involved with the youth will be able to make referrals for an EPM. The expectation is for provider staff to be active participants on the EPM teams for the young people in their care</p>	

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			therefore sustaining the practice. Referrals should be made within 2 months of the child's entry into the group home.	
Objective: Transform the continuum of child placing agencies to child caring communities				
	2015 - 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
1.4 Improve the services in congregate care facilities	(a) Ensure administration of Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool in all programs. (b) Improve management of psychotropic medications. (c) Identify short-term evidence based intervention models that can be introduced in congregate care facilities. (d) Ensure staffing patterns in congregate care facilities to provide appropriate clinical supports. (e) Identify a minimum of one congregate care setting to re-purpose for an identified needed community service.	Increase % of youth who are required to receive a CANS is administered a CANS % reduction in youth receiving 2 or more psychotropic medications. Short-term evidence-based interventions are introduced in congregate care settings. Congregate care setting(s) re-purposed to provide community-based services. Congregate care staff are trained on safety	(a) The CANS is being administered by staff within all residential provider agencies. The Department also uses the Ohio Scale and Ages/Stages SE to determine functional change and to complement the CANS. See Appendix C for data on DCYF's adherence to administering the CANS. 1.4 (b) DCYF hired a part time psychiatrist, who consults on individual cases, including when concerns are raised about the appropriateness of the child's psychotropic medication prescription. DCYF is still working to establish capacity within the agency for collecting data and monitoring psychotropic medication use on a systemic level. 1.4 (c) The Department continues to offer trauma informed treatment practices	Safety 1: Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children. Well-being 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	<p>(f) Train staff on engaging youth in talking about their placement preferences.</p> <p>(g) Train staff on family engagement practices, which move beyond visitation.</p> <p>(h) Enhance safety management practices in congregate care settings.</p>	<p>management and trauma-informed care practices.</p> <p>Improve the % of youth in congregate care who attain permanency.</p> <p>LOS in congregate care is decreased.</p>	<p>within congregate care programs. The programs include Trauma Systems Therapy (TST), Attachment, the Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC) model, the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).</p> <p>1.4 (d-e) DCYF's contracts with provider agencies ensure that agencies are adequately staffed to provide children with appropriate clinical supports. The new procurement has expanded the array of home and community-based services and decreased the number of congregate care beds.</p> <p>1.4 (f) DCYF's training around Out of Home Placement/Natural Supports includes discussion about using a "script" to contact natural supports. Training also addresses helping DCYF workers have conversation with youth to locate natural supports, sometimes as placement and other times as a resource. Permanency training includes discussion about talking to youth about their placement preferences and permanency goals.</p> <p>1.4 (g) DCYF staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in a social service field</p>	<p>Systemic Factor III: Quality Assurance System</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>and we expect staff to have some familiarity with human development and engagement of clients. DCYF does offer a “Working with Adolescents” training that focuses on aspects of their brain development and sheds light on how to have conversations and engage with teenagers.</p> <p>1.4 (h) Legislation (RIGL 42-158) was enacted in 2016 prohibiting the use of Prone Restraints among congregate care facilities. DCYF’s new contracts with agencies providing residential services contain references to the updated Rhode Island statute governing the use of restraints.</p>	
1.5 Ensure implementation of Practice model with fidelity to National Standards.	<p>(a) Identify a practice model that best meets the needs of Rhode Island’s children and families.</p> <p>(b) Develop strategic plan to implement practice model.</p> <p>(c) Implement practice model with fidelity to national standards.</p>		1.5 (a-c) DCYF has not identified or developed a strategic plan to implement a specific practice model. However, during the procurement process, DCYF required contracted providers to present compelling evidence that their program(s) have a meaningful and observable impact on the children and families in their care, and demonstrate how the outcomes against which programs have been evaluated are relevant, achievable, and impactful.	<p>Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations</p> <p>Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
				<p>Well-Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs</p> <p>Well-Being 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs.</p> <p>Well-being 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.</p> <p>Systemic Factor II: Case Review System</p> <p>Systemic Factor III: Quality Assurance System</p>
1.6 Transform the placement system to ensure only youth needing such placements are in not placed in	(a) Review the process for placement of children in congregate care (b) Introduce a new process for placement into congregate care.	Congregate care placements are gradually reduced by 10%	1.6 (a) The percentage of youth in congregate care has declined. In FY 2012, 66.9% of youth in out of home placement were in foster family settings. On June 1, 2017, 75% were in foster family settings	Safety 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
congregate care settings.	<p>(c) Train child welfare and community providers on congregate care placement policies and practices.</p> <p>(d) Recruit more foster families to ensure availability and accessibility of placements that are alternative to congregate care.</p> <p>(e) Increase the use of kinship placements.</p> <p>(f) Train child welfare, community providers and resource families on trauma-informed care.</p> <p>(g) Engage key stakeholders to support effective placement alternatives.</p>	<p>Kinship placements are gradually increased by 10%.</p> <p>Recruited and trained resource families are gradually increased by 10%.</p> <p>Child welfare and community provider staff are trained on trauma-informed care.</p>	<p>and on May 1, 2018, 81% of youth were in foster family settings.</p> <p>1.6 (b) The Department continues to use the Director's Approval Process (DAP), which requires that any placement of a child into a congregate care setting to be directly authorized by the Director. The DAP ensures multiple levels of effort to identify alternative placements and emphasizes congregate care as a last resort.</p> <p>The Department continues to use a Central Referral Unit (CRU) to connect children in DCYF care to the right services at the right times on a pathway to permanency, and to reduce reliance on congregate care settings. The CRU maintains a single point of access for youth and families requiring services. A single point of access allows for services to be more closely matched with needs and families receive the same access to needed services.</p> <p>(c) Since the DAP process and the CRU have been operational, the child welfare and community providers are well-aware of DCYF's placement practices. DCYF's employee and provider bulletins are used</p>	<p>possible and appropriate</p> <p>Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations</p> <p>Well-Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs</p> <p>Systemic Factor VI: Agency Responsiveness to the Community</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>to communicate any pertinent changes in agency practice.</p> <p>1.6 (d) The Department continues to work to increase the number of resource families (See update below).</p> <p>1.6 (e) On May 1, 2018, 65.1% of children in a family foster care setting were in kinship foster families, compared to 53.6% in FY 2012.</p> <p>1.6 (f) The Department's training plan includes a focus on trauma-focused care.</p> <p>1.6 (g) DCYF has continued to work with child welfare stakeholders to support effective placement alternatives. The ongoing enhancement of DCYF's recruitment, development, and support capacity (described below) is expected to increase the recruitment and retention of resource families to support children who may otherwise be in congregate care settings.</p>	
1.7 Improve Educational stability across the life cycle for children in care.	1.7 (a) Ensure that children birth to 5 in DCYF care are adequately prepared and supported for educational achievement.	<p>Increase placement stability</p> <p>Children will be linked with Early Intervention and Child Find resources as appropriate</p>	1.7 (a) Over the course of the last year DCYF has continued to adapt policy refinements for children Birth to 3 that are subject to the CAPTA Mandate. Grant staff has begun implementation of the revised Early Childhood Service Referral Policy As a result, the overall rate of referral for	Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>children Birth to 3 who are identified as victims in indicated cases of abuse/neglect has increased to 82%. As part of the new Rhode Island Getting to Kindergarten Grant funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation DCYF will see to develop cross-system data tracking to track rate of referral, engagement and completion of developmental screening/evaluation and access to IDEA Part C services.</p> <p>DCYF has continued to implement a system of referral of newborns not eligible for Early Intervention into evidenced based Family/Home Visiting programs to support parent/child relationship-attachment and well-being from birth. These efforts resulted 46 families being referred in 2017. While this is a decrease from last year, there is evidence that many case work and hospital discharge staff are continuing to facilitate these referrals for eligible families. The integrated data system mentioned above will allow for tracking of these referrals</p> <p>DCYF continues to implement an integrated system with RI Dept. of Education and RI KidsNet to ensure that children age 3 to 5 in foster care have access to Child Outreach Screening to</p>	<p>Well-Being 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>identify developmental delays prior to entry into kindergarten. These efforts have now been integrated into the goals of the RI Getting to Kindergarten grant and is a primary focus of the Governors Birth to 3rd Grade Reading initiative. Data systems are now under development at DCYF to track all children 3 to 5 yrs. old who are identified as victims in indicated cases of abuse and neglect. These data systems will function in a similar way to the existing data system that support the Birth to 3 population.</p> <p>Another additional aspect of the Rhode Island Getting to Kindergarten Grant is to sustain efforts to support access to High Quality Early Care and Education for children birth to five in foster care. Since the grant award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in September 2017 grant staff have assembled a workgroup specific to this goal and informational and direct recruitment strategies have begun. Grant staff have established base line data related to enrollment in High Quality Early Care to ensure that children birth to five in foster care have access to developmental and educational support that will help them succeed educationally in the future.</p>	

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	1.7 (b) Ensure that children between 5 and 14 years of age are adequately prepared and supported for educational achievement.	Improved coordination with school systems to ensure continuity of education.	<p>1.7 (b) – RIDE and DCYF completed an MOU related to ESSA in 2018 which provides a broad outline of our work and expectations of continued collaboration. Through a series of Interim Orders from the RI Commissioner of Education throughout the 2017-18 academic year, guidelines are being established related to school of origin identification, best interest determinations and transportation. RIDE and DCYF have identified Foster Care Points of Contacts as have almost every LEA in Rhode Island.</p> <p>We have conducted best interest conference calls on 488 children in foster care. While we have not fully analyzed the data, the majority of these have resulted in children remaining in their schools of origin.</p> <p>One major barrier has been ensuring children are transported to/from school by the LEA. In the interim, DCYF provided transportation through staff, foster parents and group home providers. This led to Caseworkers being diverted from traditional casework to transporting children, high amounts of overtime for</p>	<p>Permanency-1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.</p> <p>Well-Being 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>Case Support Technicians and foster parents and group home providers spending an inordinate amount of time transporting children to/from school. In mid-April 2018, due to a collaborative effort including DCYF, RIDE, General Assembly members, Superintendents representatives, advocates and others, we developed a system of providing RIDE with the names of children needing transportation and RIDE establishing transportation for these children using the Statewide Transportation System.</p> <p>This stopgap intervention has resulted in most children now being transported through the Statewide Transportation system or through the LEA for the school of origin. Over 200 children have had their transportation needs addressed in the last 45 days. We will use this for the remainder of this year and work with RIDE to allow DCYF to have direct access to the Statewide Transportation Portal for next year which should make the task simpler for all.</p> <p>The Department continues to achieve expected and higher rates of referrals for Educational Surrogate Parents/Educational Advocates for children and youth in DYCF</p>	

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>care who have been identified as needing special education services or at risk for needing such services.</p> <p>The Department has continued to improve the transitioning planning process for youth exiting the Thomas C. Slater Training School and Ocean Tides. Currently, DCYF Probation staff and the Providence Public Schools meet monthly to identify educational and transitional needs in order to develop a plan that is ready to implement upon the youth's discharge. It also includes follow up from DCYF Probation Staff with Providence Schools and the youth and assisting parents in re-registering their child. Providence Schools also alert DCYF when a youth does not register as anticipated.</p>	
	1.7 (c) Ensure that children age 14 and older are adequately prepared and supported for educational achievement.	Foster parents and residential staff will be trained regarding DCYF educational enrollment policies.	1.7 (c) All direct service staff and other staff were provided ESSA related training in November 2017. ESSA training is included in the New Worker Training Program and DCYF Youth Development and Education Support Staff make themselves available to staff and supervisors as needed for coaching.	<p>Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.</p> <p>Well-Being 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs.</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
				Systemic Factor VII: Training
1.8 Older youth transitioning from care will have full awareness of and access to necessary services and supports to promote self-sufficiency.	1.8 (a) Ensure that youth, DCYF staff, families, providers, and foster parents are aware of the breadth of available services, eligibility criteria and access procedures.	<p>Increase placement stability</p> <p>Improved rate of participation of DCYF youth in services and supports</p>	<p>1.8 (a) DCYF launched our Consolidated Youth Services Program on July 1, 2010. which provides youth development services to youth 16-21 including after care services for youth closed to DCYF at age 18.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2018, there are 1,397 unduplicated active participants across all CYS programs.</p> <p>As of May 10, 2018, there are 310 active participants in the ASPIRE Initiative with a total of 1019 served since inception. A total of \$1,374,593 has been saved and matched for the purchase of 955 assets by 359 unduplicated participants. Half of these have been for vehicle related purchases and 36% have been for purchasing low-risk (Certificates of Deposit) investments.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2018, there were 111 active Real Connections participants, 17 of whom have identified mentors. Our participation rate for the 2017 NYTD Survey Baseline was 81% and we have conducted follow-up at age 18 for these youth with a 78% participation rate. Through March 31, 2018, our NYTD Survey Participation Rate for the 21-Year-old</p>	<p>Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.</p> <p>Well-Being 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs.</p> <p>Well-Being 3: Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.</p> <p>Systemic Factor II: Case Review System</p>

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>follow-up surveys of the 2014 Cohort is at 67%.</p> <p>76% of all NYTD youth have participated in 3 or more CYS programs. The ability to engage youth across multiple services helps them to stay connected, access services, and be available for the required follow-up surveys.</p> <p>Since July 2017, the Department has been conducting annual credit checks on all foster youth age 14 through 17. An unduplicated count of youth included in the 980 credit report inquiries performed between 7/21/2017 and 3/26/2018. Of these 980 youth, 926 (94.5%) resulted in “no record found” from each credit bureau. Of these 980 youth, 54 youth (5.5%) were identified as having issues that needed to be resolved by at least one Credit Reporting Agency (CRA), of which 37 (3.8%) were corrected simply by correcting social security numbers and/or addresses. This leaves 17 (1.7%) that had more substantive issues identified by at least one CRA which we are working to resolve.</p>	
	1.8 (b) Establish services for youth who may not be eligible for current	Identify population service needs through data queries).	1.8 (b) As of March 31, 2018, CYS is serving 171 active YESS participants.	Permanency 1: Children have permanency and

Objective: Reduce the need for congregate care with greater emphasis on prevention-focused services and supports				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	aftercare services and/or adult services.	Involve career development community in transition planning for youth.	In June 2018, the Governor signed into law the "Voluntary Extension of Care Act," which allows youth who turn age 18 while in foster care to continue to receive services and court supervision until age 21. This program will provide participants with career development support and other services to help them successfully transition to adulthood.	<p>stability in their living situations.</p> <p>Well-Being 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs.</p> <p>Well-Being 3: Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.</p> <p>Systemic Factor V: Case Review System</p>

Goal II: Diligent Recruitment For Foster and Adoptive Families To Ensure Every Child Has a Safe, Compatible Home

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
2.1 Develop additional supports for resource families.	2.1 (a) Expand and increase array of services provided to resource families by DCYF and its partners.	<p>Crisis stabilization response team is established.</p> <p>Additional services for resource families</p>	2.1 (a) The proposed Recruitment, Development, and Support (RDS) model has evolved significantly in the last year. While the support services will not be delivered via regional support centers,	Safety 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	<p>(b) Implement short-term clinical stabilization crisis response team.</p> <p>(c) Establish additional services to support clinical and non-clinical issues, e.g., after-school care, behavioral strategies, and parenting skills.</p> <p>(d) Increase community support for resource families.</p> <p>(e) Improve access to services that are already provided by DCYF and other agencies to resource families but remain underutilized because of various barriers (e.g., respite care).</p> <p>(f) Review and revise (if necessary) customer service provided to resource families by the staff of DCYF and its partners.</p> <p>(g) Review and revise (if necessary) training of child welfare workers and resource families to ensure it meets the highest standards and is trauma-informed and adoption-competent.</p> <p>(h) Enhance matching procedures to improve satisfaction of resource parents and children in care and to</p>	<p>are introduced and accessed.</p> <p>Community organizations and businesses offer new supports to resource families.</p> <p>Increased utilization of services already offered to resource families by DCYF and its partners.</p> <p>The number of disrupted placements decreases by 10%. The Department was developing a methodology to address this measure longitudinally; however, these plans have been put on hold due to the departure of a DCYF staff person who was</p>	<p>DCYF continues to move towards a model where all families (kin and non-kin) have access to the services that they need based on the needs of the child placed in their home. Non-kinship families will be associated with private agencies who will provide that support and all kinship families will be able to access these services from any of the agencies under contract with the department. This new structure will be implemented after a new round of contracting in summer/fall 2018. In preparation for this, all 174 families who were trained at the Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend (see section 2.2b) were assigned to a contracted private agency.</p> <p>2.1 (b) The Department has not issued an RFP for a Mobile Crisis Intervention Team and is reconsidering its initial plans to do so. DCYF has contracted with several programs that include a 24-hour response capability.</p> <p>2.1 (c-d) DCYF is rapidly moving toward a strategy that is connecting all families to support agencies, who can help them to navigate clinical and non-clinical</p>	<p>Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations</p> <p>Well-Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs</p> <p>Well-Being 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs</p>

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	decrease the number of placement disruptions.	working on this project.	<p>community resources in concert with DCYF staff. In addition, DCYF partners with other community partners such as The Village for Foster and Adoptive Families and Foster Forward to connect families with non-clinical supports, trainings, support sessions, and material needs such as car seats, cribs, etc.</p> <p>2.1 (e) For kinship families, DCYF is now getting kinship guides folders in the hands of kinship resource families on the day of placement. These kinship guides offer one document with information regarding community resources, accessing health care for children, school information, and other resources available to kinship caregivers. This information is reinforced through their training, which was redesigned in December 2017. Through this training redesign, a web-based portal has been designed so that kinship and non-kinship families can read about various resources available to them at any time (slated to be launched in July 2018). As additional reinforcement, DCYF intends through new contracting to move to an “opt-out” system for navigation services;</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>that is, all of our kinship families will be partnered with a support agency unless they opt out of the service. The intention is to have someone available to the family so that they have greater awareness of and quicker access to available services.</p> <p>For non-kinship families, see Section 2.1(a) for a brief description of how we are preparing our foster care ecosystem for new contracting that will partner all of our resource families with built-in support services.</p> <p>2.1(f) DCYF continues to use Eventbrite for signups for non-kinship pre-service and all in-service training. Recruiters, trainers and support partners coordinate this work using Basecamp communications tool. DCYF now has a mobile recruitment line (401-952-0262) for faster response time for prospective resource families. In June 2018, DCYF is setting up a phone line that will help our staff to better respond to calls regarding all recruitment, development and support matters and a call log system to</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>ensure that families questions are answered to completion.</p> <p>For the last year, DCYF has been exploring online customer relationship management tools (CRM) that will assist in providing better customer service and increased self-navigation for prospective resource families. Specs for such a CRM tool have been identified, and DCYF intends to select and adopt electronic application and CRM technology in the next year as we wrap up our research.</p> <p>2.1 (g) Resource Family Division staff have been offered multiple trainings on customer service delivery for prospective and active resource families in the past year. In addition, in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, training was provided to staff on the unique and specific challenges facing kinship families.</p> <p>Through the Adopt Well-Being Rhode Island project funded by ACF, DCYF staff, community agency staff, and resource families continue to have access to trainings focused on trauma-informed</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>responses and care for children who have experienced trauma.</p> <p>For families, DCYF has worked with its partners to expand all future in-service trainings such they are not only offered to resource families who work with a private agency but to any resource family across the state interested in that topic.</p> <p>Finally, as mentioned in section 2.1(e), our kinship training was significantly overhauled in December 2017. The trauma-informed training is now scenario-based to engage families more deeply and reflect on how their involvement as kin or fictive kin has an impact on the child(ren), family of origin, their family and themselves.</p> <p>2.1 (h) In April 2017, DCYF created the Resource Families Division bringing together all functions and services driving towards increasing the number of children in family-based settings: Recruitment, Development and Support (RDS) Unit; Family Search & Engagement team; Licensing Unit, Placement Unit, and the Permanency Support Unit. This</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>restructuring allowed us to make better-informed and coordinated decisions about our resource families' strengths so that we improve our matching and can target recruitment to better meet the needs of our children.</p> <p>Additionally, a regular meeting among our Placement Unit and our private agencies have helped to more fully utilize our array of homes. During the meeting, children in need of placement are presented to private agencies, who in real time can look through their roster of families who are available to take placements and identify matches for immediate follow-up.</p>	
2.2 Increase availability of resource families.	<p>2.2 (a) Recruit additional kinship foster families using the Department's Kinship Investigator.</p> <p>2.2 (b) Recruit additional non-kinship foster and adoptive families.</p> <p>2.2. (c) Increase public awareness of the need for resource families.</p> <p>2.2 (d) Raise DCYF's profile in traditional and new media.</p>	<p>The proportion of kinship foster care placements is increased by 10%</p> <p>The number of non-kinship foster families is increased by 10%</p> <p>Regulations reviewed and revised if necessary.</p>	<p>2.2 (a) Our Family Search & Engagement (FSE) Unit receives referrals to conduct family placement and natural resource searches for 32 cases per month, on average. The searches entail accesses public records to identify relative and fictive kin who can be contacted by the social worker or by the FSE team to gauge their interest in supporting a child, either as a placement or other natural resource. Social workers and supervisors in units have undergone training on how</p>	<p>Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.</p> <p>Systemic Factor VII: Foster and Adoptive Parent</p>

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	<p>2.2 (e) Build partnerships with community organizations and businesses that can facilitate recruitment of new resource families.</p> <p>2.2 (f) Review regulations to identify barriers that may prevent potential resource families from receiving a foster/adoptive parent license.</p>		<p>to best access the FSE unit's service; and the FSE team is visiting our branch offices to ensure regions away from our urban core are using the FSE service.</p> <p>2.2 (b) In March 2018, DCYF and its partners, with foundation funding from the Rhode Island Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, executed a Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend. A 6-week recruitment blitz leading up to the event garnered 233 applications; ultimately, 174 prospective families were trained at the weekend, and many of them have completed licensure.</p> <p>As described in our 2017 report, DCYF had been working from an interim plan for recruitment of foster homes. Among the highlights of that plan: in Fall 2017, DCYF completed a recruitment and awareness campaign for Newport/Aquidneck Island – an area with a large shortage of foster homes. The effort led to a full training class of families from the area. Also of note: there has been a dramatic increase of homes from the Central Falls area, thanks to new partnerships with the school district and community leaders.</p>	Licensing, Recruitment and Retention.

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>DCYF is currently working to formalize the relationship with Central Falls Schools and then offer similar programming to other school districts across the state.</p> <p>Lastly, DCYF is working to develop a formal recruitment plan and has sought feedback from local and national partners. All of these efforts have resulted in more non-kinship families for Rhode Island's children. Between May 2017 and May 2018, DCYF has seen a net increase in licensed non-kinship resource families of 23%.</p> <p>2.2 (c-d) DCYF formally unveiled its Be An Anchor awareness and recruitment campaign during the 6-week recruitment blitz described in 2.2(b). With help from the governor's office, this effort generated local and national press (local TV stations, Providence Journal, Associated Press) about the community's involvement with solving our need for resource families. Additionally, a communication plan included coordinated social media usage through a social media kit built by our team.</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>Since the Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend, the statewide recruitment partners have continued to meet for collaboration purposes. In May 2018, for example, partners held a Foster Care Awareness Month campaign that used social media to raise awareness about foster care, and highlight some of our current resource families and their journeys.</p> <p>2.2 (e) DCYF has worked to improve coordination among private foster care organizations. In addition, relationships have been formalized and strengthened with other community agencies such as the faith-based community, LGBTQ community agencies, and Latino community agencies. The results of the increased coordination is evidenced by the successes described in sections 2.2(c-d). Additionally, DCYF's recruitment team has partnered with the DCYF director and the Office of the Child Advocate to participate in "community reach-backs" – engagement with prominent public, nonprofit and private partners in areas of the state where there are high shortages of resource</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>families. Three areas in particular – Woonsocket, Central Falls and Newport – have resulted in more than a dozen community-based events where we have strategies with the community around how to identify new resource families.</p> <p>2.2 (f) The Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend was designed as a Friday-Saturday-Sunday overnight training to respond to a common challenge we hear from families: that the training is inconveniently timed and that the overall process is too long and cumbersome. The 174 families who completed the weekend were trained and completed much of the paperwork and licensing components in one weekend – with a plan in place to complete licensure within 30-90 after the event. The learnings from this effort are being used as we explore how to offer future trainings.</p> <p>DCYF has also actively targeted revisions to the RI General Laws via legislation to address lead laws in the state, which are another barrier for licensing families. While we continue to push for sensible</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			changes, this continues to be a barrier for some families for licensure.	
2.3. Increase diversity of non-kinship resource families	<p>2.3 (a) Conduct targeted outreach in communities that are underrepresented in the pool of available resource families relative to the number of children who come from those communities.</p> <p>2.3 (b) Develop training materials in languages spoken in target communities.</p> <p>2.3 (c) Build partnerships with community organizations that can facilitate outreach to target communities.</p> <p>2.3 (d) Develop education/outreach strategies to work with cultural groups that are less familiar with resource parenting.</p> <p>2.3 (e) Enhance cultural competence of DCYF and private agency staff.</p>	<p>The number of resource families from underrepresented communities is increased by 10%.</p> <p>The number of children and youth in state care that are placed within their communities is increased by 10%.</p>	<p>2.3 (a) DCYF largely took a geographic approach to its outreach in the past year. One community in particular (Central Falls) is largely made up of Spanish-speaking and Cape Verdean populations; the other two have large percentages of working-class white families.</p> <p>With the 6-week blitz in early 2018 for the Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend, a clear strategy was developed to outreach to the Latino community, which included recruitment materials in Spanish and spots on Spanish-language local radio. As a result, 48 of the families registered for the weekend were Spanish-speaking or bilingual. Additionally, recruiters were challenged to emphasize efforts and connections they had in both the African-American and LGBTQ communities.</p> <p>Moving forward, specific goals and strategies have been set forth to target racial and ethnic minorities, as well as the LGBTQ community, as well as professional communities.</p>	<p>Systemic Factor VII: Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.</p> <p>Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.</p>

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>2.3 (b) The March 2018 Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend provided a venue to ensure that marketing and outreach, licensing, training and other RDS communication was available in Spanish language. All materials and sessions were delivered in Spanish for the 48 Spanish-speaking families participating in the weekend event. Our classic 10-week course continues to be offered in both English and Spanish.</p> <p>Our kinship resource guides are available in Spanish as of July 2017. Various kinship training materials are made available in Spanish, including case scenarios.</p> <p>Interpreters are available for both non-kinship and kinship training when languages other than English and Spanish are needed. Materials are not currently offered in any other languages.</p> <p>2.3 (c-d) Through previously described community reach-back and geographic-focused work, attempts have been made to connect with dozens of public, private and nonprofit organizations who are embedded in the communities. We have</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>found these efforts to be only mildly fruitful, as these organizations tend to have their own priorities and little capacity to devote time to child welfare and foster care issues. Moving forward, DCYF intends to develop a program that will allow our current resource parents to serve as primary ambassadors in communities of color and other forms of diversity.</p> <p>DCYF in the last year has also worked more closely with Bags of Hope and Fostering Hope, two faith-based organizations in New England that are helping us connect to the Christian community. These organizations were given grants to support our 6-week recruitment blitz in early 2018, for example, and we continue to include them in our coordinated statewide planning opportunities.</p> <p>Some of contracted partners (notably: Foster Forward, Communities for People, Child and Family, and Family Service of Rhode Island) do excellent jobs at recruiting in our minority communities; others (e.g., Boys Town) are well connected to our faith-based</p>	

Objective: Increase the resource capacity of family homes (relative, fictive kin, and non-relative) to decrease number of placement disruptions and use of congregate care.

	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
			<p>organizations. DCYF continues to rely on these recruitment partners to promote the need for diverse applicants.</p> <p>(e) Since last year, DCYF expanded its GARE institute training to community stakeholders and the entire DCYF leadership team. In May 2018, DCYF also partnered with the Burns Institute to examine racial disparities in first placement of children. We are currently working to unpack the root causes to these disparities to develop new processes and policies.</p> <p>DCYF also has a Diversity Advisory Committee that supports leadership in driving diversity initiatives broadly. This includes hiring and promotion practices, with the belief hiring staff at all levels of the agency who reflect the racial and cultural makeup of the families we serve will bring increased diversity in our resource family pool, and better outcomes for all of our children.</p>	

Goal III: Improve the Overall Safety of Children in Our Care

Objective: Reduce the overall instances of Maltreatment and Repeat Maltreatment				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
3.1 Improve overall consistency in investigations and safety and risk assessment	<p>(a) Adopt Structured decision making tool and training that focuses on screening and priority response assessment, safety assessment, risk assessment and risk re-assessment tools</p> <p>(b) Consider adopting Review, Evaluate, Direct (RED) Team Meeting process for determining response priority and case planning.</p>	<p>Maltreatment rate in foster care numbers</p> <p>Repeat Maltreatment numbers</p> <p>#of cases referred to community/home based services that open to FSU</p>	<p>(a) SDM is not yet in use, however, significant work has been done over the past year to prepare for its launch. The Department has promulgated revised CPS policies and MIS is in the process of embedding the SDM tool in DCYF's computer system so that the call floor can complete the tool electronically. MIS is targeting July 1, 2018 for completion of this project.</p> <p>(b) After careful consideration, the Department is no longer pursuing the RED Team Meeting Process.</p>	Safety 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
3.2 Improve the service array of community based and home based services	(a) Procure an array of home based services to stabilize families and provide the resources to support safety plans that keep families together whenever possible		(a) DCYF's service array includes many home-based services to stabilize families and support safety plans. See Appendix B for a description.	Safety 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Goal IV: Improve Organizational Health and Combat Secondary Traumatic Stress

Objective: Staff will be supported in their job positions including Secondary Traumatic Stress which will improve outcomes for families				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
4.1 Expand and increase the resources available to ensure workforce and agency wellness.	<p>(a) The Peer Support Team (PST) will adopt and implement a culturally competent wellness initiative throughout the Department to support staff and combat Secondary Traumatic Stress</p> <p>(b) PST will be trained in nationally recognized Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) model</p> <p>(c) PST with the support of the Director and /or designee will initiate a menu of wellness options for DCYF staff. PST will be accessible to DCYF staff 24/7</p> <p>(d) PST will develop and communicate the process for accessing support</p>	<p>PST will track individual feedback with surveys</p> <p>Debriefing contacts to identify trends for future trainings</p> <p>PST will track calls made to 24/7 line</p>	PST has had 133 contacts with staff from May, 2017 -December, 2017	Systemic Factor IV: Staff and Provider Training
4.2 Improve staff safety	<p>(a) Create a Workforce Safety Committee (WSC)</p> <p>(b) WSC will develop and/or update protocols for emergency situations such as fire, active shooter, medical and mental health emergencies, suspicious packages, and bomb threats.</p>	<p>Protocols will be available on DCYF's website and staff will aware of any updates.</p> <p>Surveys will be given to staff to assess their awareness of</p>	<p>(a) WSC members have been selected</p> <p>(b) Fire Drill plan has been updated with new signage and drills completed</p> <p>(c) A questionnaire was sent to staff following a recent fire drill. The purpose was to collect feedback on what worked well and where improvement is needed.</p>	Systemic Factor IV: Staff and Provider Training

Objective: Staff will be supported in their job positions including Secondary Traumatic Stress which will improve outcomes for families				
	2015 → 2019	Measure of Progress	Progress in 2018	Outcome/Indicator
Strategies	Activities			
	(c) WSC will develop a communications plan and ensure that staff are made aware of any updates to emergency protocols.	staff safety protocols and gather feedback.		

Update on Service Description

The purpose of Title IV-B Subpart 1 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program is to protect and promote the welfare of all children; prevent the neglect, abuse or exploitation of children; support at-risk families through services which allow children to remain with their families or return to their families in a timely manner; promote the safety, permanence and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families; and provide training, professional development and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce.

Service Descriptions:

Title IV-B, Subpart 1

Funding from Title IV-B, subpart 1 is used to support five programs relating to child welfare outcomes promoting safety, permanence, and well-being. These programs will all be continuing in FY 2019:

- **Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCP)** – this program provides emergency and stabilization services for families in crisis where children are at risk for removal from home due to concerns relating to child abuse, neglect, and dependence program offers family stabilization services for up to 120 days for families. Services are statewide within the FCCPs. Capacity is anticipated to be 200 at any given time. New, 3-year contracts, with the 4 existing providers and one new provider were signed on April 1, 2018.
- **Adoption Preparation and Support (Children's Friend & Service)** – this program began as a federal demonstration project funded through ACF and is being continued through Title IV-B, subpart 1 funds. Services assist families in preparation for adoption of DCYF involved children, and provide ongoing support including counseling; advocacy; therapeutic recreation, parent education, and crisis intervention as necessary to assist and preserve adoptive families. This program serves up to 20 families and is statewide.
- **Adoption Rhode Island** – this program works solely with DCYF as the adoption exchange information and referral program. ARI provides matching services for waiting children and interested families, and also provides support services for children waiting for adoption. The program has expanded to provide additional support for the Department in development of the Regional Permanency Support Teams. This function provides necessary technical assistance and support for workers to be able to make the best and most informed decisions; e.g., gathering information from the case record to search for potential family connections and resources, and help the FSU worker to organization the information needed for full disclosure presentations. This program is statewide and available to any child registered.
- **Foster Forward (formerly RI Foster Parents Association)** – this program provides an educational and supportive service for current foster families and assists with recruiting efforts to attract new foster families. The program is an advocacy organization that supports recreational and skill development activities for foster families and youth in care. This program is statewide and serves all foster children and families.
- **The Families Together Therapeutic Visitation program** - The Department of Children, Youth and Families in collaboration with the Providence Children's Museum has evolved a successful and innovative therapeutic visitation program which is nationally recognized. The Families Together

Therapeutic Visitation program has now been in operation for more than 20 years. This program is operating in all four of the DCYF regional office locations, allowing visitation program consultants to be out-stationed into our Regions. The Families Together program consultants work with our supervisors and social caseworkers to develop stronger capacity for supervising visitations, providing education on child development and behavior management; and, providing helpful, constructive feedback to parents following visitations. This program is statewide and can serve 45 children a year.

Title IV-B, Subpart 2

The Department is also allocating IV-B Part 2 Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program funding as follows:

Commented [NJ(1)]: Percentages updated

Family Support 20%

The Parent Support Network of Rhode Island was begun primarily to assist families of children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) who had no formal involvement with the child welfare agency. However, there is greater appreciation now for the trauma associated with child abuse/neglect and the impact that involvement in the child welfare system has on children and their families. The Parent Support Network, with funding through IV-B, part 2, is providing additional support for families; with peer supports, fatherhood groups, and many local free events to encourage parent involvement. PSN has also been a leader in the Peer Recovery Support movement in the state and have trained over 100 peer recovery coaches. PSN is available to all families statewide and serves over 300 families a year.

The Department is also allocating IV-B, part 2 funding to support the Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) to provide resources for family support services for families either referred by DCYF or who are seeking assistance on their own. This program is available statewide and serves approximately 2,300 families a year.

Family Preservation 27%

The Partners in Permanency program, which was developed by Children's Friend and Service in October 2000 as a demonstration project with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, is now funded with Title IV-B, part 2 dollars. This program was quite impressive as a model for concurrent planning. It dovetails effectively with the Department's efforts to promote family-centered practice and to support concurrent planning practice changes within the Regions. This program bridges the categories for family support and adoption promotion/support and can serve 20 families at a time is statewide.

Time-limited Reunification 20%

The Department of Children, Youth and Families in collaboration with the Providence Children's Museum has evolved a successful and innovative therapeutic visitation program which is nationally recognized. The Families Together Therapeutic Visitation program has now been in operation for more than 20 years. This program, funded by IV-B, part 2, is operating in all four of the DCYF regional office locations, allowing visitation program consultants to be out-stationed into our Regions. The Families Together program consultants work with our supervisors and social caseworkers to develop stronger capacity for supervising visitations, providing education on child development and behavior management; and, providing helpful, constructive feedback to parents following visitations. The program also provides a visitation specialist/parent educator component to further assist in supporting

permanency outcome goals. This program has been recognized nationally by Harvard University's Innovations in Government program; it has been presented nationally as a promising practice at several child welfare conferences and through the national association of Children's Museums. This program is available statewide and can serve 45 children a year.

Adoption Promotion and Support 27%

Funding through Title IV-B, part 2 supports the work of the Dave Thomas Foundation to hire two Wendy's Wonderful Kids family recruiters. One funded through IV-B, Part 2 and the other matched by The Foundation with the Foundation supplying the training for these positions. Adoption Rhode Island has been the only provider of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's *Wendy's Wonderful Kids* (WWK) Model in Rhode Island for just over a decade. This evidence-based national model was designed to meet the needs of our most vulnerable youth, including older youth and youth who have been in care for longer. WWK Recruiters provide intensive, child-focused recruitment, including case record mining, smaller caseloads, and more frequent, individualized casework with youth. After 9 years of significant success in this program, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the RI Department of Children Youth and Families invested funding for two additional WWK Recruiters at Adoption Rhode Island in 2014, bring the total to 3 WWK Recruiters. The WWK model allows for caseloads of 12-15 youth in active recruitment. There are currently 48 youth in Adoption Rhode Island's WWK Program: 18 youth being served through DCYF-funded WWK, and the remaining 30 being served through Dave Thomas Foundation-funded WWK. This program is statewide.

Funding through Title IV-B, part 2 also supports Teen Focus is a program that includes several evidence-based and evidence-informed best practices to achieve permanency and independence outcomes for teens in care with the permanency goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). Historically, these youth were not enrolled in any permanency services at Adoption Rhode Island. The primary areas of focus of the Teen Focus program are to (1) keep older youth stable in supportive living arrangements while striving towards legal and relational permanency through adoption, guardianship, reunification, and/or the development of a network of peer and adult supports, (2) achieve educational and vocational goals, and (3) prepare youth for adulthood through life skills development. As part of a multi-disciplinary team, Teen Focus Permanency Specialists work with youth to achieve relational and emotional permanency through family search and engagement and other opportunities to build and sustain lifelong relationships, implementing models such as child-focused recruitment, Darla Henry's 3-5-7 Model for permanency clarification and preparation, and family search and engagement models. Education Specialists support positive educational outcomes for youth, including high school graduation, exploration of post-secondary education and career goals, increased community involvement, and extracurricular activities. The program started through a contract with DCYF in January 2017, with funding for 3 Permanency Specialists and 2 Education Specialists. The program was contracted to serve a total of 54 youth in the first year, with caseloads for Permanency Specialists up to 18 youth (each Education Specialist's caseload reflects half of the total program population). At this time, there are 2 Permanency Specialists and 2 Education Specialists and the agency is in the hiring process for the 3rd Permanency Specialist. Until the 3rd Permanency Specialist is hired, the program capacity is 36 youth. This program is statewide.

Populations at Greatest Risk for Maltreatment

The Department has identified the population of children who are reportedly at greatest risk of maltreatment as:

- Children age 5 and younger
- Children who are Black/African American, or Hispanic
- Children who are from families with low socioeconomic status
- Children with a family history of DCYF involvement or past history of maltreatment
- Substance exposed newborns
- Victims of sex trafficking

The Department monitors and evaluates child maltreatment using multiple methods, the National Child Abuse Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) data as a surveillance system, monthly continuous quality assurance meetings, targeted research studies and analysis employing advanced statistical analysis. Based on these multi-methods, DCYF employs CQI meetings to identify evidence-based programs demonstrating effectiveness with populations at elevated risk for maltreatment. These CQI meetings are inclusive of DCYF staff - child welfare, juvenile justice, children's behavioral health and licensing – as well as community providers. As a result of these analyses and collaboration with providers, within the past year, the providers implemented community-based programs and congregate care programs to address these youth at higher risk. These programs include Triple P, FFT, TST community programs and TST residential programs.

The Department is an active member of the Governor's Task Force on Overdose and the Substance Exposed Newborn Task Force (formerly the Neo-Natal Abstinence Syndrome task force) to continue to address and support substance exposed infants. The Department will address in the CAPTA plan the activities undertaken for this population.

Infant Safe Sleep Program

Between 2012 and 2016 there were a total of 36 infant sleep-related deaths in Rhode Island. In response to this public health issue, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) established a Safe Sleep Program. The Program's work is driven by a Safe Sleep Workgroup, a multi-agency committee that meets monthly. The Workgroup is made up of representatives from RIDOH, WIC, the State's Family Visiting Program, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF); the Office of the Child Advocate; and, the Parent Support Network.

Recent activities of the Safe Sleep Program and Workgroup include:

- Through funding from DCYF, over 10,000 *Sleep Baby Safe and Snug* board books in English and Spanish were purchased and delivered to five birthing hospitals throughout the state for dissemination to new families at discharge (completed)
- Assessing current hospital Safe Sleep policies and procedures, and encouraging Cribs 4 Kids certification (in progress)
- Creating Cribs 4 Kids distribution sites at all First Connections agencies to engender a mechanism to provide American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)-recommended Pack 'n' Plays to families in need (in progress)

- Development of a Safe Sleep training program for professionals who have contact with children and families including: Family Visiting, WIC, Early Intervention, Health Equity Zones, DCYF, first responders, clinicians, social workers and case managers, and early childhood educators (in progress)
- Direct community outreach through local agencies, programs, and public events to distribute Infant Safe Sleep information including refugee communities (ongoing)
- Establishing a Rhode Island Safe Sleep Screening tools for WIC staff, Family Visiting nurses, and first responders (in progress)
- Developing a Safe Sleep Policy template that drives safe sleep competency and professional practice among relevant agencies and organizations (in progress)

Attention to Sex Trafficking

A significant portion of the Governor Raimondo's mission has been to develop a comprehensive program addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) within the State of Rhode Island. On July 31, 2015 she issued a Policy Directive to her cabinet, a Call to Action against Human Trafficking.

In January 2016, the Governor released the Uniform Response Protocol. In addition, the Rhode Island Human Trafficking Task Force was created. It is a collaboration of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the USAO and the RIAG, who are dedicated to targeting and prosecuting offenders, dismantling human trafficking rings, and rescuing children and adult victims of human trafficking.

The DCYF Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was created in July 2015, based on results from the initial assessment by the Strategy Team and outside experts. The SIU is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive CSEC program. The program has started from "scratch" to address the following issues:

- Review current programs, initiatives, and legislation
- Participate in existing meetings with partners and stakeholders
- Implement/update standardized policies and procedures
- Increase collaboration, coordination, and partnerships with outside agencies
- Develop a comprehensive, evidence based CSEC data collection method and a standardized system-wide assessment tool to identify victims and children at risk.
- Improve victim treatment, services, and placement
- Reduce the total number of children absent from care (CAFC) and locate all long term absent children
- Provide professional training, outreach, and public awareness
- Develop DCYF sponsored informational web site and 24-hour contact telephone number to identify/locate/assist potential victims
- Identify additional funding sources
- Provide weekly updates to DCYF Management

DCYF recently filled a new position, Human Trafficking Outreach Specialist, to work full time with Child Protective Services (CPS) to assist Child Protective Investigators (CPIs) at the very onset of a child victim of sexual exploitation.

On daily average, DCYF has 22 youth absent from care without official permission, half of these are from probation and none are missing more than a month or two without being located. DCYF is in the process of implementing policies, procedures, and initiatives to verify, account for, prevent and locate these absent children. The Department classifies a victim up to the age of 18 and 21 if that youth is open to the Department or has a Serious Emotional Disorder or Developmental Delay.

A portion of these children are at high risk to become CSEC victims. During FY-2017, the Rhode Island Citizens Review Panel (submitted by Christine Barron, MD – Hasbro Children’s Hospital’s Aubin Child Protection Center) reported 55 cases of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) up from 23 in FY-2016. This was 7% of the total cases reviewed (786). The geographic location of Rhode Island on I-95, between New York City and Boston is a common stopover area for illegal drugs, guns, prostitution, and sex trafficking.

As of March 2018, the Special Investigations Unit has reduced the daily average number of absent children to 18-22. Through coordination with law enforcement, Hasbro Hospital, Day One and others, we have confirmed (80) child victims of sex trafficking within the State. Of those, (48) are/were in DCYF care. DCYF has made significant progress using a whole community approach to prevent, educate, and treat CSEC victims.

The Special Investigations Unit is keeping all the required data elements for the CB on sex trafficking victims and will report as required through the NCANDS.

Provide professional training, outreach, and public awareness: DCYF is currently providing a multi-tiered mandatory training program for DCYF workers, to include; awareness training for all workers, advanced CSEC training the Child Protective Services Unit (Investigators and Intake workers) and a train the trainer module. To date, the staff awareness training and the advanced CSEC training have been completed. The training was provided by Day One. Day One is the only agency in Rhode Island that is specifically organized to deal with issues of sexual assault and domestic minor sex trafficking as a community concern. They provide treatment, intervention, education, advocacy, and prevention services to Rhode Islanders of all ages—from preschool children to elderly adults. Several speakers from DCYF, Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office, US Attorney’s Office, Homeland Security Investigations (Human Trafficking Task Force), Rhode Island State Police, Providence Police, St Mary’s STARR Project, Gateway, and Hasbro Hospital Panda Clinic presented. The primary audience for the workshop were CPS workers, supervisors, and administrators. Topics included:

- CSEC Victim Presentation
- Rhode Island General Law 11-67 (Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude)
- Federal Law H.R. 4980: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
- Mandatory Federal reporting requirements (NCIC & NCMEC)
- Rhode Island Safe Harbor Act (2017 -- H 5857)
- DCYF Policies (Child Absent from Care – CAFC & CSEC)
- Victim Centered Approach
- Amber Alert System
- Multi-disciplinary Teams
- Special Investigations Unit (CAFC, Kinship Locator and CSEC)
- CAFC/CSEC Face Sheet

- Victim screening questions
- DCYF CSEC Assessment Tool
- CPS worker responsibilities and requirements
- CSEC Case Studies

Services for Children Under the Age of Five

- The Department makes every effort to ensure that appropriate settings and services are available to meet the needs of all children in care, and particularly as it relates to children under the age of five as these children are often considered the most vulnerable.
- As of June 3, 2018, there were 759 children under the age of five in foster care settings. The population of children under five represents as approximately 67% white, 14% multi-racial, 14% African American, less than 1% Asian, less than 1% Native American, and 4% undetermined. Twenty-eight percent of children under the age of 5 are Hispanic/Latino. Fifty (50%) percent were in relative care, 29% in generic foster homes, 20% in specialized foster care homes, and less than 1% in a pre-adoption placement or shelter. As of June 3, 2018, there were approximately 196 youth under age five who had been in the care of the Department for more than 16 months.
- In FY 2017 several key efforts have continued to support children under 5 involved with RI DCYF. With the reconvening of the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet in FY 15, ongoing planning has continued in an effort to that support the needs of children Birth to 5 in the child welfare system. The Children's Cabinet is a group of high level state department directors that meet monthly to work toward implementing policies and programs to better meet the needs of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children.
- The previously established Getting to Kindergarten initiative that was part of the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet, has now been leveraged into a three-year privately funded grant to support the needs of the youngest children in the child welfare system. In July of 2017 RI DCYF applied for and was awarded a three-year \$ 415,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek Michigan. This initiative seeks to establish and maintain a dedicated focus on the developmental and educational needs of children birth to 5 involved with the department. To date, a set of goals and a work plan have been developed to begin this work. Staff from the prior ACF ECCW-2 grant continues to lead this effort within RI DCYF. Broadly the goals of Rhode Island Getting to Kindergarten include: linking vulnerable 0-5 year old children to appropriate screening and developmental programs consistent with the CAPTA mandate and best practice, connecting child welfare involved families to MIECHV evidenced-based programs, ensure access to effective special education and developmental supports for 3-5 year old's involved in the child welfare system and equip parents, foster parents and caregivers to facilitate healthy early childhood development. This grant initiative will also seek to improve the rate of enrollment in High Quality Early Care and Education services for children in foster care and provide cross-system training on key topics to both child welfare and early childhood service providers. These efforts will continue among state agency partners to strengthen partnership and collaborative efforts on behalf of young children in the child welfare system.
- Grant funded staff that directs the Rhode Island Getting to Kindergarten Initiative provides consultation to casework staff in all four DCYF regional offices to serve as a link to early

childhood programs and service capacity as well as facilitating referrals to specific evidenced-based Home Visiting programs. This staff person also coordinates the data system, policy initiatives and the CAPTA Liaison position that ensures that children 0-3 who are victims in indicated incidents of neglect or abuse are referred for developmental screening and/or evaluation through the early intervention IDEA Part C system. The goal of these efforts is to ensure that all child welfare involved or at risk children 0 to 5 are provided with the developmental supports to ensure social-emotional stability and early educational success. Other duties of this staff include development of systems to track children in foster care toward High-Quality Early Care and Education opportunities and attend cross-system meetings with state agency partners to ensure that systems that support children in the child welfare system and well-coordinated.

- The Getting to Kindergarten initiative is also working to address the system level planning for screening, assessment and service delivery needs of child welfare involved children age birth to five. The ongoing approach being used to meet this need is the implementation of a multi-tiered system of supports and services. RI Department of Health continues to promote more effective strategies of implementing developmental screening in health homes that serve the most at risk populations as the first layer of this support system. These Department of Health efforts are coordinated with RI DCYF through the Successful Start Steering Committee to which DCYF has continued to be an active member. In addition to developmental screening being carried out by pediatricians in health settings, DCYF began implementation of the newly revised Early Childhood Service Referral Policy. This revised policy provides guidance and process directives to DCYF staff on service delivery across the early childhood service spectrum with a particular focus on CAPTA referrals for identified victims of abuse/neglect age birth to 3 years old. Since implementation of this revised policy, DCYF has sustained an average monthly referral rate above 90% for children birth to 3 identified as victims in indicated cases of abuse/neglect as part of the CAPTA mandate.
- The final tier of this ongoing system development includes DCYF working with the RI Department of Education to further implement plans to ensure that Child Outreach Screenings are administered more effectively with children in foster care between the ages of 3-5 years old. As part of the Getting to Kindergarten Initiative DCYF data development staff has begun formulation of a system to identify and tract children 3-5 years of age who are identified as victims in indicated cases of abuse/neglect. This system will function similar to the existing data system that supports referral for the birth to 3 population. With some initial baseline data being formulated grant staff has begun to develop processes at a regional level to increase rates of access to Child Outreach Screening for children age 3-5 in the foster care system and will expand these strategies to all DCYF involved populations as the grant progresses.

Targeted Services:

- **Early Intervention and First Connections Developmental Screening:** The Department makes referrals where appropriate to Early Intervention and developmental screening service providers. During the calendar year 2017 RI DCYF referred 248 children to the Early Intervention program and 461 children to the First Connections developmental screening program who were involved in an indicated case of maltreatment. These referrals represent 709 referrals combined and represents an 82% referral rate of all the children birth to 3 who were indicated victims of neglect or abuse. The increase in referral rate from 65% to 82% can be directly attributed to

implementation of the revised Early Childhood Service Referral Policy. Another 287 children were referred by RI DCYF Child Protective Service (CPS) for non-indicated CPS cases. There were 28 children who were already involved with Early Intervention prior to their CPS investigation.

- **MIECHV and Early Head Start Home Visiting Services:** As a continuation of the work of the ACF Child Welfare-Early Care Partnership and the continuing Getting to Kindergarten Initiative, grant staff has continued to promote and facilitate referral to the MIECHV Home Visiting programs. These programs include Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers as well as Early Head Start. During the calendar year 2017 grant staff had facilitated 46 referrals to various programs that serve the prenatal and under one-year-old population. While this is a decrease from the prior year, it is understood that case work staff have begun to make direct referrals to these programs that do not require facilitation by grant staff. These referrals have continued into 2018 and further strategies are being developed to utilize this resource for families where this level of care is appropriate. As of May 2018 grant staff has continued working strategically to case match resources in Early Head Start and the Parents as Teachers Programs for families where children age 1 to 3 years old are reunifying home with parents. These supports can add protective capacity for families and provide transitional support that can remain with the family long after formal child welfare involvement ends.
- **Neo-Natal Abstinence Syndrome Task Force:** The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Task Force has continued to focus attention on the needs of substance exposed newborn population involved with the department. With the rates of opiate abuse on the rise both nationally and here in Rhode Island the NAS Task Force has continued to work to build interagency collaboration to better meet the needs of substance exposed newborns both in and out of the child welfare system. This task force has engaged stakeholders from a broad range community providers and state agencies to systematically address this issue. These stakeholders include representatives from Dept. of Health, DCYF, Medically Assisted Treatment providers, OBGYN Practices, Birthing Hospitals, BHDDH (state agency responsible for adult substance abuse treatment and addiction recovery supports) and other Home Visiting and Early Childhood providers. The Task Force has developed three specific workgroups to focus on prenatal referral and supports, hospital protocols, training for community providers. This task force has been central to the development of protocols related to Plans of Safe Care that is mandated by recent CARA legislation. This task force will continue to be active in its work over the next year and seek to strengthen interagency collaboration to support this population. RI DCYF will continue to actively participate in the planning and implementation of this groups work. RI DCYF has completed revisions to data systems within RICHIST to better track substance exposed newborns and specifically infants diagnosed with NAS. This will allow for better tracking of needs and services referral processes for this critical population.
- **Safe Sleep Workgroup and Training Efforts:** During FY 2018 RI DCYF has partnered with RI Department of Health and other community providers to increase promotion of Safe Sleep Practice to families with children under the age of 1 in Rhode Island. Tragically each year a small number of families in Rhode Island experience the loss of a child as the result of an accidental sleep related death. In many of these cases the loss of a child could have been avoided through the use of Safe Sleep Practices that are part of recommendations developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. While this is not exclusively a child welfare related issue, the department has made a purposeful effort to develop and refine curriculum and deliver said curriculum to DCYF staff and providers so they in turn can provide support to families, foster families and

other caregivers caring for children under the age of one involved with DCYF. DCYF has provided Safe Sleep training to over 250 staff during FY 2018 and will continue to provide training to new and existing staff in the coming months.

- **Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Child Welfare Committee:** The Department is represented on the ICC and works with members to promote understanding and better coordination of services involving children under the age of three who are involved with the child welfare system. A Child Welfare Committee continues to meet on an every other month basis to focus attention on improving activities at the practice level between Department social workers and EI providers.

The Goals of this Committee are as follows:

- Ensure coordination of services for referrals from DCYF to EI.
- Review DCYF and EI policies and staff training to ensure all children under 3 with a substantiated case of child maltreatment, who are eligible, are referred to EI.
- Improve data collection on this population as well as referrals, screening, eligibility determinations and participation in EI.
- Improve the practices of EI providers serving children in foster care to ensure providers are effectively able to address parenting practices with very vulnerable families.
- Identify the resources currently used to meet the developmental needs of children under age 3 with a substantiated case of child maltreatment who are not eligible for EI or whose families do not choose to participate in EI.

The ICC-Child Welfare Committee has continued to play a central role in development of DCYF policy that guides the referral process to Early Intervention services. As a result of the guidance of this group and work integrated with the Getting to Kindergarten Initiative, RI DCYF has developed a dedicated Access Database to track the referral of child welfare involved children birth to 3 to the early intervention service system. These improved data collection processes and implementation of new policy and referral process has demonstrated that there was a significant improvement in the referral rate (82%) to EI services of children under 3 that were subject to an indicated incident of abuse or neglect. Coordinated efforts will also continue as part of the Getting to Kindergarten Initiative to refer families that are determined as not eligible for EI to other Home Visiting programs that support development and child well-being.

Services for Children Adopted from Other Countries

The Department provides adoption preparation and post adoption support services through a Title IV-B funded contract for families who have adopted children through public child welfare systems. These support services are also available for families whose children were adopted internationally. Services include education and support groups, counseling, case management, crisis intervention and respite services. Additionally, the Department offers referral and assistance with linking families with services funded through other state agencies.

Program Support

Rhode Island is a state system that does not utilize a county or regional system. Therefore, no training and technical assistance is provided specifically to counties or regional entities.

In the upcoming year, the Department anticipates continuing to access technical assistance from several outside partners to support our CFSP/APSR goals. These include the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the

Harvard Government Performance Lab, who have assisted the Department develop strategies based on best practice and research from other states. This includes assistance in developing strategies to improve family search and engagement as well as the expansion of the Active Contract Management process to congregate care providers. DCYF's Workforce Development division has also collaborated, and will continue to partner with, other state agencies within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to access technical assistance on issues like Opioid Usage Issues (BHDDH) and Safe Sleep (DOH) and Fatherhood Programs (DHS/Child Support).

The Department continues to actively pursue re-establishing a partnership with Rhode Island College's School of Social Work (RIC). With the current workload, DCYF's Workforce Development division anticipates RIC will be a critical partner in researching, designing, implementing, and evaluating current and future training programs. In addition, DCYF's Data and Evaluation unit added two epidemiologists to staff to be able to have one epidemiologist support each of the primary areas of the agency; child welfare, behavioral health, and juvenile justice.

Consultation and Coordination Between States and Tribes

The State of Rhode contains one federally recognized tribe within its border, the Narragansett Indian Tribe. The Tribe was federally recognized in 1983 and controls 1,800 acres of reservation trust lands in Charlestown, Rhode Island. They currently have approximately 2,000 recognized members.

The Narragansett Tribe does not operate its own child welfare system and relies on the Department to assist with all aspects of the state's child welfare functions. DCYF and Narragansett Tribe representatives have agreed that DCYF would use its *Implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act* (Policy: 700.0170) as a basis for a State-Tribe agreement. This Policy represents the understanding between the Department and the Tribe as it relates to the responsibility for providing protections for Tribal children who are in state custody, as referenced in Section 422(b).

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DCYF has a standardized process used to gather input from the Narragansett Indian Tribe. This process is based on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), In-Demand Training (2016). DCYF notifies, exchanges information and consults directly, with Tribe representative Winona Harris and Anemone Mars. The DCYF Liaison insures that notification is made to the Tribal Liaison when a family who identifies as Native American enters the DCYF system. In addition, bi-monthly meetings are held to discuss general practice, as well as to review specific families when needed. Regular phone and e-mail contact occurs between Tribe representatives and DCYF staff responsible for the coordination of care and services to each family. Notifications are made to Ms. Harris of all court hearings.

Recent meetings have focused on the new ICWA reporting requirements, awareness training, tribal member verifications, Indian child removal and placement reviews, permanency planning, grant opportunities, Title IV-E issues, among other topics. The Narragansett Indian Tribe hosted an ICWA One-Day Workshop on January 11, 2017, at the Alton Jones Campus, Whispering Pines Conference Center, 401 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI. The workshop was very well received and attended by most of our partners and key stakeholders throughout the State. Follow-up training is in the planning stages at this time. Ms. Harris and Ms. Mars are also involved in preparation for, and will participate in, our CFSR which is scheduled for 2018. In addition, they have been involved in discussions focused on practice improvement and standardization of Child Welfare practices.

DCYF's *Implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act* (Policy: 700.0170) requires that every child, their parents, or guardians are asked if they are affiliated with a federally recognized Indian Tribe. The response is recorded in the DCYF SACWIS system (RICHIIST) and is documented in the case activity notes

(CAN). The assigned Supervisor verifies that the CAN has been entered. Once the child is confirmed as a member of a Federally recognized Indian Tribe, the family and Tribe are notified in writing via registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, of all child custody proceedings and placements. The notice is also forwarded to the BIA Regional Director. Active efforts are made to maintain children at home. When this is not possible, all efforts are made, through collaboration with the family and Tribe, to place children with Kin (members of the Tribe). All efforts will be documented in the case activity notes. The Narragansett Indian Tribe has been provided with the draft policy for their input and comments and will be provided with any draft revisions prior to promulgation.

The Narragansett Indian Tribe is immediately notified of any DCYF investigation involving one of their members. All petitions filed by DCYF with the RI Family Court must include documentation as to whether or not a family has identified as being a member of a Federally Recognized Tribe.

Immediate notification of involvement with a family whose members identify as being members of a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe is made to Ms. Harris and/or Ms. Mars. Tribe representatives are notified of and consulted for case planning purposes, reviews and court hearings. Ms. Harris as the contact person responsible for providing child welfare services and protections for Tribal children is the qualified expert witness for the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

Notifications of state proceedings, placement preferences, active efforts to prevent the breakup of Indian family and jurisdictional issues/preferences are documented in the Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST) and case activity notes (CAN). All correspondence, documents, reports, and other hard copy paperwork will be maintained in the specific DCYF RICHIST casefile.

Specific steps to improve or maintain compliance with ICWA include a memorandum that was distributed to all staff on the Bureau of Indian Affairs Final Rule on ICWA. The Department also began utilizing a new ICWA notification form that is completed by the assigned case manager in consultation with the client. The completed ICWA form is submitted to the DCYF legal office for final review and then sent to the designated Indian tribe(s) by certified mail. The Department will closely monitor worker compliance and document results of this process. The Department will continue to conduct regularly scheduled in-person meetings (every other month) between DCYF and Tribal representatives and maintain monthly contact between Ms. Harris. DCYF will continue to provide ICWA training to all DCYF employees and Tribal representatives.

An update on discussions with the Tribe related to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) is described in the CFCIP of this document.

DCYF will send an electronic copy of the 2019 APSR to Narragansett tribe for review and concurrence. DCYF will follow up with in-person meetings with Tribal representatives.

Monthly Caseworker Visit Formula Grant

The Department uses the Monthly Caseworker Visit grant to improve the quality of caseworker visits with an emphasis on improving caseworker decision-making on the safety, permanency, and well-being of foster children and caseworker recruitment, retention and training (section 424(f) and 436(b)(4)(B)(i) of the Act).

In 2018, the Department used Monthly Caseworker Visit funding to purchase broadband-enabled tablet laptop computers to support front line caseworkers. In 2019, the Department is planning on purchasing additional broadband-enabled tablet laptops to assist workers in the field. The laptops allow staff to complete face-to-face visits more efficiently and effectively by allowing them to work directly with their

clients in the field. Information can be entered directly into our RICHIST system without the need to return to the office.

The state met the performance standards in 2017.

Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments

The Department had no significant barriers to expending the funds we received in FFY 16 \$337,000 (adjusted) and FY 2017 \$85,946. The Department re-procured its service array and funded Teen Focus through Adoption RI for \$338,211 from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The Department will continue to fund this program in FY 19 with these funds.

Teen Focus is a program that includes several evidence-based and evidence-informed best practices to achieve permanency and independence outcomes for teens in care with the permanency goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). Historically, these youth were not enrolled in any permanency services at Adoption Rhode Island. The primary areas of focus of the Teen Focus program are to (1) keep older youth stable in supportive living arrangements while striving towards legal and relational permanency through adoption, guardianship, reunification, and/or the development of a network of peer and adult supports, (2) achieve educational and vocational goals, and (3) prepare youth for adulthood through life skills development. As part of a multi-disciplinary team, Teen Focus Permanency Specialists work with youth to achieve relational and emotional permanency through family search and engagement and other opportunities to build and sustain lifelong relationships, implementing models such as child-focused recruitment, Darla Henry's 3-5-7 Model for permanency clarification and preparation, and family search and engagement models. Education Specialists support positive educational outcomes for youth, including high school graduation, exploration of post-secondary education and career goals, increased community involvement, and extracurricular activities. The program started through a contract with DCYF in January 2017, with funding for 3 Permanency Specialists and 2 Education Specialists. The program was contracted to serve a total of 54 youth in the first year, with caseloads for Permanency Specialists up to 18 youth (each Education Specialist's caseload reflects half of the total program population). At this time, there are 2 Permanency Specialists and 2 Education Specialists and the agency is in the hiring process for the 3rd Permanency Specialist. Until the 3rd Permanency Specialist is hired, the program capacity is 36 youth. This program is statewide.

The state plans to use should we receive Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive funds in the coming fiscal year, taking into account the statutory provisions that extend the expenditure period and prohibit supplantation (section 473A(f) of the Act), for continued Teen Focus services given the outcomes are productive of the program.

Child Welfare Demonstration Activities

DCYF no longer participates in a child welfare waiver demonstration project.

Quality Assurance System

The Department has a comprehensive data and evaluation framework that includes a continuous quality improvement system. The integrated statewide infrastructure that supports data and evaluation includes:

- RICHIST – DCYF Management Information System
- Administrative Case Reviews for Family Service and Juvenile Probation cases and CFSR-like in-home reviews
- Data Analysis and Program Evaluation (comprised of DCYF staff and contracted services which are currently out for bid)
- CQI Feedback Loop through multiple channels (i.e. FSU regional and probation supervisory meetings, Child Welfare Advisory Committee, Family Care Community Partnership Active Contract Management meetings)

This statewide infrastructure supports numerous data, program evaluation, and continuous quality improvement functions within the Department, inter-departmentally with other state agencies; and, externally with community providers and families served through the Department. The primary function of this infrastructure is to provide a systematic feedback loop of data for the purposes of continuous quality improvement, program evaluation, tracking and predicting child, family, and system outcomes, service planning, and informing practice and policy. Among those major functions are:

Rhode Island Child Information System (RICHIST)

The RICHIST system generates approximately 600 automated reports for monitoring and continuous quality improvement. Selected reports are disseminated to Department staff respective of their professional responsibilities. The reports are automatically emailed to Department recipients on a daily/weekly/monthly basis and can be graphed over time to view trends in the data. This information is used for program planning and evaluation, in particular when new initiatives are implemented. The information is also used by DCYF administrators and supervisors to make data driven decisions, track division or unit benchmarks and in staff supervision.

The RICHIST system also generates over 50 dashboard reports accessible by all Department staff spanning safety, permanency, and well-being areas (exemplars of these are at the end of this section). The dashboard provides the raw data to the user as well as aggregated data, graphs, and the ability to manipulate the data within the reports. The data is used by the Department, in particular, Department managers to manage programs, caseloads, and child/family services such as face-to-face monthly visits, case plans, CPS investigations, licensing, and placements.

Illustrative examples of managing with data includes monthly caseworker and child face-to-face reports. The Family Service Unit regional directors and supervisors and Juvenile Probation caseworker administrator and supervisors review the monthly caseworker and child face-to-face reports during their respective unit meetings. FSU directors meet regularly with their units either every two weeks or every month (depending on the region) and Juvenile Justice meet monthly with their units. These reports are also reviewed by the Deputy Director and Director who acknowledge in the senior team meetings Regions meeting the Department targets for face-to-face visits. Where those targets are not being met, a discussion and strategies on how to improve is conducted. Illustrative of a strategy is a recent hiring of additional caseworkers (both FSU And Juvenile Probation) to reduce caseloads as well as a supervisory LAMM training (Leadership Academy for Middle Managers) aimed at assisting supervisors and administrators in enhancing their supervisory and leadership skills. This monthly face-to-face report is also presented by the FSU regional directors at the monthly Data and Evaluation meetings. Each month there is a standing section of the meeting where regular reports such as monthly face-to-face are

discussed. The FSU regional directors facilitate the discussion on the data trends and factors that may be impacting the data performance.

Similarly, the CPS reports on response times to an investigation and investigation completion times are discussed in the CPS unit meeting as well as the monthly Data and Evaluation meetings where administrators from across the Department are engaged in data discussions on the data trends and factors that may be impacting the data performance. Further analysis of the response time and investigation completion times identified which response categories were meeting the Department's policies and which less frequently met the Department policy timeframes. The Department is using this information to inform the restructuring of CPS as it implements Structured Decision Making.

Through these monthly Data and Evaluation meetings and the specific unit meetings as described above, the Department continues to review the dashboards to either identify data/information gaps useful for CQI feedback and management and/or display enhancements. The Department continues to work with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Data warehouse to explore options to develop cross functional dashboards with other Agencies within EOHHS. The collaborative work with the EOHHS regarding cross agency data analysis is in the infancy phase and the EOHHS led Data Eco-system is developing research questions that will engage and incorporate the agencies that fall within EOHHS.

Additionally, the Department is exploring the recent intent of ACF to provide states with resources to improve data management systems by moving from a SACWIS model to a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) model as described in the recent ACF Final Rule published 6/2/16. We anticipate that this Rule will provide us with the opportunity to transform our data management system from one that is primarily case management focused to one that provides more robust opportunities for data collection and analysis while still ensuring quality case management support.

Examples of Reports used for CQI Purposes:

- Foster Care - Monthly List of Children who have left Relative Care and Non-Relative Care
- Victims of Sexual Abuse
- FSU - Initial Risk Assessment
- Breakdown of children at DCYF, breakdown by agency and by: age and living arrangement; race and living arrangement
- Family Service Unit Worker Caseload
- Unduplicated Count of Children by Demographics
- Children in Placement for 300 Days
- Psychiatric Hospital - List of Active Children
- Children in Placements with Specific Service Types
- Adoption and Safe Families Act - Children in care for 15 of the last 22 months
- Foster Care - Children who Age out of DCYF Care
- Children Discharged from Placement

- Children Reported Absent From Care
- Children Entering DCYF Care
- Children In Placement
- Removal and Discharge Episodes Dashboard
- ARU - Service Plan Review Statistics
- Foster Care - Caseworker Visits
- Indicated Allegations with a Previous Indicated Allegation w/n 6 Months
- Maltreatment in Foster Care
- CANS Population Report
- FCCP Referrals With Reopens To Department

Administrative Case Reviews and CFSR-like in-home reviews

The CQI operation maintains a case review process in the DCYF regions which substantially mirrors the process used in the Federal CFSR instrument. Between 7/1/16 and 6/30/17, there were 1,296 ARU's completed and 58 in-home reviews completed. DCYF intends to increase the number of in-home reviews as part of its Program Improvement Plan after the 2018 CFSR. The state intends to begin using the CFSR Round 3 Instrument as part of its ongoing review process.

For out-of-home cases, the ARU staff have enhanced their functions to integrate into their 6-month administrative reviews CQI principles that includes a review instrument that substantially mirrors the Federal CFSR Round 2 On-site Instrument. ARU staff were trained on the CFSR-like instrument, and inter-rater reliability testing was conducted. ARU receives their list of youth scheduled for a review. Prior to the family/caseworker meeting, the ARU reviewer reviews case related data in RICHIST and populates the CFSR-like review as much as possible given the information in the case record. A meeting is held amongst ARU reviewer, Department caseworker, and involved parties, such as a birth parent, foster family, and/or provider or other party the family may want to include. The meeting occurs and based on the meeting review, additional information is entered into the CFSR-like instrument.

For in-home cases, Regional supervisors in the Family Service Units (FSU) participate in a monthly case review process which consists of randomly chosen cases using a standard supervisory review tool that mirrors the safety and well-being sections of the Federal CFSR instrument. After each supervisor reviews the case, the case undergoes a quality assurance process conducted by a third individual within the Data and Evaluation unit. The QA specialist reviews the case independently within the RICHIST system and when ratings on items disagree, the QA specialist requests the supervisor to provide additional information to support their rating. If the supervisor provides supportive information the rating is maintained. If the supervisor is unable to provide supportive information or does not respond, a notification is sent to them indicating the rating on the items in question will be changed to the rating the QA specialist believes the case record supports. The supervisor is given a week to provide supportive documentation.

Since 2011, the review instruments for both ARU and the in-home supervisory instrument has been modified to conform to specific data benchmarks that the Department must report on for its Program

Improvement Plan. This new electronic form is designed to provide more CFSR-like information, reflecting the areas of safety, permanency and well-being. The form covers 27 CFSR related questions:

- One Safety section
- Three Permanency sections
- Three Well-Being sections
- One Case Review Summary section with Determinations
- One Recommendation section

This was a notable change for in-home case reviews where previously the CQI staff had a manual process for reviewing these cases, but now the process is managed electronically. The in-home case reviews are created and saved in the RICHIST system, capturing data elements individually, that were previously captured in the aggregate. This process for in-home cases also now includes Juvenile Probation.

This RICHIST automated review process was also implemented for ARU in May 2011 for out-of-home cases. The information is entered into the review form located in the ARU Case Review section in RICHIST. This information is captured on an individual child/family level from the review form in the MIS system and is able to be reported in an aggregated format to provide an overview for analysis and planning purposes.

The design of this system is also to flag cases that may have serious enough issues to warrant action by the Administrative Review Officer. For example, if during the Administrative Case Review, the Administrative Review Officer (ARO) determines that an issue in the case may have serious enough implications that it requires immediate further action such as a child being at imminent risk of harm or if there is a serious barrier to permanency achievement, the Administrative Review Officer will report the issue for further supervisory review.

At the conclusion of the administrative review, the ARO informs the case worker/supervisor that the case will be flagged for further review by the chain of command. The Administrative Review Officer sends an e-mail describing the concern to the case worker, supervisor, and the Regional Director for further assessment and possible action. The ARO may discuss case concern/issues with the Administrative Review Supervisor prior to any action taken. It may be determined that the concern if documented in the review form may not require any further action other than a case recommendation. Once the Regional Director reviews the case, the decision may be made to send the flagged case to the Associate Director for further assessment. Any action is left at the Family Service level.

Data Analysis and Program Evaluation

Continuous Quality Improvement work is led through the DCYF Data and Evaluation unit, which recently added two Senior Epidemiologists to increase capacity within the unit. Unit staff meets weekly to review data reports, program outcomes, and any identify needs related to data, monitoring, and evaluation. Based on this work, data reports, surveillance reports, and program evaluation reports are developed,

disseminated, presented to better inform policy, practice, program development and data driven supervision.

CQI Feedback Loop

DCYF uses multiple channels in the CQI feedback loop, including the following:

- ***Monthly Data Meetings***

Various DCYF representatives from the Director to the Supervisor level meet monthly to discuss the Department's performance on key outcomes, review the strategic dashboard, and discuss solutions how to improve or sustain performance. This has given us a forum to check on key initiatives such as reducing our congregate care numbers. We have shown that the Directors Approval process was effective in reducing the number of children in congregate care, but we are starting to plateau. Combined with data from the Community Supports and Behavioral Health division we are able to see that our Foster Home Array and recruiting strategy needed to be adjusted; children with a Level of Need (based on the Level of Need instrument) as needing a lower level such as a foster family were placed in a congregate care setting because a foster home that met their particular needs was not available. See Figure 2 below.

At the monthly data meetings, DCYF program managers present the data specific to their area and that is used to manage their divisions and/or units. The intent of this model is to have Departmental program managers acquire skills and comfort with aggregate level data to manage and inform with data decisions, practice and policy in their respective areas.

Further, this data along with the results from the Diligent Recruitment grant (see page 5) and an analysis by Data and Evaluation where the predictors of youth whose first placement is either kinship or congregate care were presented internally and with congregate care providers. This information informed the foster family RFP and the need for additional supports for families who foster youth (teens) as well as inform community based providers of the need to provide supports and enhanced family engagement to allow youth to either remain in their homes with supports or achieve permanency in a timely manner and maintain permanency. The Department and the congregate care providers will be receiving training with Building Bridges in February 2018 to assist in family engagement that can reduce the number of children removed and placed in higher levels of care than needed.

- ***FCCP Active Contract Management Meeting***

The FCCP is a network designed system regionally located in five areas of RI to provide preventive, community-based services aimed to maintain family preservation and divert children and youth from entering DCYF. The Active Contract Management is a monthly meeting where a common set of metrics are discussed among the four FCCP regions and various DCYF stakeholders. This meeting has been very effective in sharing knowledge and improving performance. In one case, all but one region were not meeting the goals for completion of assessments, through discussion at the meeting on best practices we were able to get all regions up to the proper level of performance.

- ***Group Home Active Contract Management (ACM) Meeting***

The Department recently expanded the ACM process with group home providers and holds monthly meetings focused on safety, permanency, and well-being. Among the goals of these meetings is to:

- Reduce institutional maltreatment
 - Increase youth safety
 - Increase exits to permanency and family settings
 - Reduce number of children with long lengths of stay
 - Improve child well-being: improved functioning, reduction in disruptions
 - Increase family work emphasis
- ***RICHIST reports and dashboards***
Based on the review of data within the various forums, the Department's administration is able to implement changes where necessary to address continuous quality improvement objectives. Data is also shared with the Department's Director of Training to inform Departmental training needs.
 - ***Expedited Permanency Meetings***
Expedited Permanency Meetings (EPMs) are a process for moving children out of residential facilities and into families. EPMs grow from the recognition that many children in group placements (in assessment and stabilization centers and group homes, for example) can live in families, not group placements. The goals of EPMs are to sharply reduce the number of children living unnecessarily in group care, overcome barriers to raising children in families and ensure that once EPMs get children out of unnecessarily restrictive settings, new children do not take their place.

Additional Changes in the past year and plans for changes in the future:

In addition to the additional CQI processes, the Data and Evaluation unit has worked closely with the Department's Children's Community and Behavioral Services in the CSBH provider record review. CSBH staff conduct an annual onsite record review of a random sample of provider records. The instrument developed was a collaborative effort among the Data and Evaluation unit and CSBH and includes CFSR like areas such as comprehensive assessments conducted, services put in place to meet those needs, additional permanency areas and well-being areas covering physical, behavioral and educational. Based on these reviews, the Department generates individual provider reports and aggregated reports of all providers. The individual provider reports provide detailed information to the provider and what the Department expects to improve. The aggregated reports provide state level data and ongoing surveillance of these outcomes on a system level.

The Department has previously expressed the desire to the U.S. Children's Bureau and the Administration for Children and Families to become a state-led CFSR state in 2016. However, after reviewing staffing needs and time limitations, it was determined that the Department would remain a federally-led CFSR state with the intention of becoming a state-led CFSR state in 2018-2019. The Department is currently reviewing personnel needs to determine the feasibility and the most efficient organizational model to support a state led CFSR for 2018-2019. In order to prepare for the federally led CFSR, the Department will train its current ARU staff as well as DCYF volunteers who wish to participate in the Federal Review. We will be working with JBS International to conduct the CFSR training for our internal staff during the week of May 21st, 2018.

In 2018-2019, the Data and Evaluation and Workforce Development units will work together to create a CFSR training for all current Administrative Review Staff as well as any staff members that are hired to support the state led CFSR process. The Department would utilize training materials and expertise that JBS International had provided to the Department in the prior year's CFSR training as well as training materials found on the CFSR informational portal. The Department has also reached out to the State of New Hampshire and obtained some of their internal CFSR training materials that Rhode Island could utilize in its own training development.

Presently, the Department has ARU staff who conduct the 6-month and 18-month permanency reviews consistent with ASFA with the intention of hiring a fourth ARU staff. The Family Court conducts the 12-month permanency and 24-month reviews.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Plan Requirements

DCYF's CAPTA state plan is attached in a separate document.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

The Department for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), is the state agency responsible for the administration, supervision and oversight of all programs and services required and funded under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), including the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requirements and the ETV program. As such, DCYF is responsible for providing youth in foster care and formerly in foster care with youth development services and supports to help them transition to adulthood and to achieve permanency and self-sufficiency. DCYF is committed to assisting all youth who are leaving the Department's care prepare to enter adulthood successfully.

Consolidated Youth Services Program

On July 1, 2010, the Department entered into a contract with Foster Forward for the Consolidated Youth Services Program (CYS). This program incorporates all funding for Youth Development and Independent Living Support Services, as well as voluntary aftercare services for youth leaving DCYF care at age 18 for all populations (with the exception that youth leaving Juvenile Correctional Services are eligible for voluntary aftercare services even if they leave care between their 18th and 19th birthdays). The contract has since received a number of extensions. Most recently, the contract was extended to June 30, 2017. As part of our ongoing system transformation efforts, the Department is in negotiations with Foster Forward to extend this contract again commencing on July 1, 2017 for a period of one year.

Through the CYS Program, DCYF provides comprehensive youth development services, directly or through access to existing services funded by other agencies, which address the permanency, employment, educational, health, relational, technical life skills and transition needs of youth who have a variety of strengths and challenges. DCYF assists each youth in achieving the highest level of education, employment, well-being, and self-sufficiency possible based on individual strengths and abilities, in preparation for permanency, independence and successful adulthood. The Department also provides adolescent support services to DCYF staff to ensure informed transition planning. In addition, CYS staff assist the Department in implementing the federal requirements of the NYTD.

The Department designed the CYS Program to ensure older youth in the care and custody of the Department, as well as youth aging out and former foster youth have the tools, resources and

opportunities that will increase the likelihood that they will successfully transition from DCYF care. Services are available to all youth ages 16-21 who are in foster care or who were in foster care after their 16th birthday, including youth who left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption after their 16th birthday. It is anticipated that youth who are in foster care and are younger than age 16 will primarily obtain similar services through their foster parents and/or the residential programs in which they reside. However, through the leveraging of over \$4.6 million, Foster Forward also is able to offer some of this programming (Real Connections, ASPIRE, and Youth Enrichment Grants) to youth as young as 7 and up to the youth's 24th birthday through using funds acquired through other grants and fundraising outside of the CYS contract.

The Youth Establishing Self Sufficiency (YESS) Aftercare Services component of CYS, either directly or through collaboration with other agencies, provides financial support, housing, counseling, employment, mental/physical/sexual health, food assistance, educational and other appropriate services to former foster care recipients between the ages of 18-21. These services complement a youth's own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and assure that program participants recognize and accept personal responsibility for preparing to transition into adulthood.

The CYS Program includes the following direct and/or indirect service components:

[Real Connections Mentoring](#)

The goal of Real Connections is to ensure that all youth leave state care with positive, permanent adult connections and options for a successful future. Real Connections has pushed to expand the knowledge base on what works for helping older youth in care achieve permanent adult connections. While elevating its practice to meet or exceed national mentoring guidelines, Real Connections works in collaboration with the DCYF and other partner organizations to implement innovative family finding techniques to advance permanency. To accomplish this, Real Connections employs a number of strategies to identify these adults as potential mentors. These strategies include: eco-mapping, in which youth visually represent their network of connections; case recording-mining to search for mention of individuals formerly connected to the youth; and Seneca Searches an online search technology to access public records in order to locate identified connections related to the identified youth.

Real Connections is available to youth ages 8-20 (with CYS funds supporting youth ages 16-20) and employs a mentoring model to strengthen those relationships that are not immediate placement options but may become placement resources and can provide long term support. The program searches beyond immediate family members to identify extended family and "fictive kin," which could include coaches, teachers, neighbors and the other valuable community resources that are too often overlooked. If no adult connection from within the youth's own network can be identified youth are then matched with a mentor from the community. All identified adult connections undergo a 5-hour mentor training and are supported for a minimum of a year.

[Life Skills Assessment and Individualized Life Skills Education](#)

The CYS Program uses the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CSLA) to conduct Holistic Youth Assessments (HYA) on youth referred for an assessment by DCYF. This assessment tool is strengths-based and widely accepted as a best-practice model. The CSLA addresses all key transition domains, included permanency and the youth's level of confidence in their future. Other supplemental topics include education, pregnancy, parenting infants and young children, youth values, homeless youth, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (GLBTQ), and American Indian culture. The HYA's take place statewide in a location that best meets the needs of the youth. These locations include, but are not limited to, foster homes, group homes, or the Thomas C. Slater Training School for Youth (Training

School). HYA's will only be conducted at the Training School if youth are referred for Life Skills prior to entry into the training school in order for the HYA to be completed within the designated 90-day window for completion. As of July 1, 2012 the Life Skills Program for youth at the RITS ended and no CFCIP funds are used for youth at the RITS. While meeting with youth to conduct the HYA, CYS staff inform the young people know of other services and supports offered through Consolidated Youth Services.

Upon completion of the HYA, results are emailed to the appropriate DCYF staff (e.g., social caseworkers, probation officers, unit managers, etc.) and the DCYF Community Liaison, to any other community provider identified by the youth with whom he/she is working and to the youth. The score report indicates which domains the youth needs services and supports in (Career Planning, Communication, Daily Living/Home Management, Housing Education, Money Management, Self-care, Social Relationships, Work Life, Work and Study Skills).

CYS staff, upon request, will customize and tailor class offerings for young people who need it based on any exceptional needs or scheduling conflicts. Life Skills education curriculum comes from the Life Skills Learning Guide (Ansell Casey's companion resource), *Making Proud Choices*, "Keys to Your Financial Future" (Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative) and E² Club Navigator (Works Wonders Initiative). Flexibility in the curriculum is ensured in order to address the youths' individual needs.

Based on findings from Life Skills program evaluations that other states have done, the DCYF, CYS staff are driving programming toward evidence based practices. In January 2013, the CYS Program adapted the curriculum and replaced its format with the evidence based Curriculum from the Institute on Prevention of Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection among Youth in Foster Care. Rhode Island is one of five states which have adapted the evidenced-based *Making Proud Choices* curriculum to the child welfare population. The Institute on Prevention of Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection Among Youth in Foster Care, sponsored by the American Public Human Services Foundation, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation provided the national support for the five selected states. The *Making Proud Choices* curriculum replaced the existing Life Skills lessons on pregnancy and STI/HIV prevention and healthy relationships. CYS staff convened a statewide Continuous Improvement Team to explore systems level activities to support the implementation of the curriculum and inform the work of the Institute. This statewide work team helped the CYS program to develop and implement the plan to roll out curriculum instruction. Since inception, 705 youth have completed the Making Proud Choices Curriculum.

The CYS Program uses the National Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative "Keys to Your Financial Future" curriculum (locally known as ASPIRE) for financial education instruction. This is deemed an evidence-informed practice by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This curriculum was adapted in 2013 and rolled out in its newest form in January 2014. The new curriculum is even more youth friendly, contains much more engaging activities, and provides youth with follow up learning opportunities related to financial management that will help inform youth about making and maintaining asset purchases.

In order to ensure youth have the greatest accessibility to Life Skills programming, Life Skills Education Classes take place in geographically diverse sites around the state on a regularly scheduled basis, utilizing community partners (libraries, churches, community centers, etc...) as well as in residential programs. Classes generally meet twice per week (or once per week on Sundays) for 4 hours for approximately 5 weeks. To date in FFY 2018, this has resulted in 11 class offerings, at 2 site locations. This Life Skills Education programming included: 4 weekend courses, 1 community class in Middletown (for agencies who serve youth who may not be able to attend in the community due to behavioral needs, etc.), and 5 accelerated courses.

Youth who complete the Life Skills Education Program receive a \$40 stipend for each completed component. Youth who have also completed the Making Proud Choices curriculum receive a \$20.

[ASPIRE Initiative \[Rhode Island's Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative \(JCYOI\)\]](#)

The purpose of the ASPIRE (Aligning Savings, Permanency, Information and Resources for Empowerment) Initiative component of the CYS Program is to increase the percentage and number of older youth who achieve permanency before they would age out of care and improve the successful transition of youth in foster care to adulthood through the following strategies: develop opportunities for youth engagement; increase financial knowledge and stability; document results; identify and disseminate best practices, and galvanize public will and guiding policy to provide needed supports for youth. Participants receive up to 8 hours of financial education upon completion of which, they receive \$100 in seed money to assist them in opening an IDA savings account. Participants are assisted with setting savings goals and are matched dollar for dollar up to \$1,000 per year toward the purchase of an asset within the following categories: education, investment, health, housing, vehicle, insurance, credit building/debt reduction, microenterprise.

Since June 2014, ASPIRE participants have had the opportunity to participate in one-on-one financial coaching through the Supervitamin project. Youth receive at least 8 hours of coaching to work on their financial goals and move toward greater financial capability, inclusive of increasing their credit score and savings, reducing the use of predatory banking and increasing food security.

As of May 10, 2018, there are 310 active participants in the ASPIRE Initiative with a total of 1019 served since inception. A total of \$1,374,593 has been saved and matched for the purchase of 955 assets by 359 unduplicated participants.

[Educational Services and Supports](#)

The CYS Program assists youth in achieving educational success. Through Life Skills, ASPIRE and YESS, CYS staff work closely with youth and adult supporters to ensure educational success in high school, help link youth to supports and services for college preparation and access, and link youth to college support services. In addition, Foster Forward works closely with DCYF's Educational Service Coordinator to ensure students that are eligible for the DCYF Post-Secondary Tuition Assistance Program are connected to these resources.

Through funding from RI Dept. of Labor and Training, Foster Forward is currently partnering with Tri-County Community Action to offer GED and Adult Literacy support to foster youth. We currently plan to serve at least 20 youth per year, while our primary focus is to offer these classes to foster youth, referrals are accepted from youth within the community as space permits.

[Employment/Vocational Development Services](#)

The CYS Program is a leader in helping to ensure youth have access to supports and services they need to be successful in career development and workforce readiness. CYS staff work closely with youth and adult supporters to ensure youth are provided the supports and services they need to enter the workforce either when they leave DCYF care or after they complete a training or educational program which meets their needs.

In FFY2012, separate from CYS but in large part due to the success of the CYS Program, Foster Forward was awarded one of four grants nationally, out of 90 submissions, by the Administration for Children and Families to improve services to youth in the child welfare system. This award put \$2 million of federal resources through FFY2016 behind the power of Consolidated Youth Services to build a model,

implement, and test the effectiveness of increasing relational competencies for youth through the world of work.

The grant, known as *Works Wonders*, served youth ages 14-21 who are in or who have aged out of the Rhode Island foster care system. The strategy combined an educational and peer group, Employment and Empowerment Group (E2), and support from an Employment Coach to help youth identify and engage in healthy relationships that provide on-going social support, advocate on their own behalf (psychological empowerment), and connect with the labor market (career development and employment engagement). E2 groups are co-facilitated by a trained child welfare professional and former youth in care. Foster Forward was also a grant recipient of the Governor's Workforce Board since July 1, 2015. The funds provided augment the federal *Works Wonders* funding and support paid work experiences for current and former foster youth that were part of the Works Wonders Initiative.

The *Works Wonders* study concluded service intervention on March 31, 2016. From project start to intervention end, a total of 130 youth completed all required program components. An additional 56 youth met the qualification for "engaged" in the project which is defined as having taken a baseline survey and attending at least four classes. Of the 186 youth who meaningfully participated in the intervention, 129 participants completed a total of 157 work experiences. 36% of those work experiences were internships, 36% were informational interviews, 18% were paid jobs, and 9% were externships, exposure events, job shadows, and other experiences. Of these experiences, 87% were paid.

Works Wonders E2 curriculum has been used in the life skills classes to satisfy independent living skills needed for career planning and work life since March of 2016. Through continued funding from the Governor's Workforce Board, the RI Foundation, Bank of America, Citizens Bank and Textron, Works Wonders was successfully utilized as an intervention for the most disconnected participants of the YESS program. We have since expanded the program, allowing us to target youth earlier at intake to the YESS program, as well as to support youth in our newly awarded Rapid Rehousing Program for Homeless youth funded by HUD, United Way, and the RI Foundation. The E2 curriculum, one-on-one job coaching, work experiences, job shadows and informational interviews are provided to unemployed or underemployed current and former foster youth ages 16 - 24. From June 2017 to May 2018, 70 new participants were served.

Assistance with Implementation of NYTD

As the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative agency in Rhode Island, Foster Forward has significant and positive experience in surveying youth on a regular basis. Their survey participation rate of youth in their ASPIRE Initiative (Rhode Island's Jim Casey Program) hovers around 82% twice a year. They lead our efforts in reaching out to youth for the NYTD survey.

In modifying our SACWIS, the Department provides direct access to specific components of RICHIST for designated CYS staff. This allows us to make semi-automatic referrals for Life Skills, allows CYS staff to enter Life Skills assessment and service information directly into RICHIST, provides a list of the NYTD Survey Populations for CYS and allows CYS staff to enter NYTD survey information directly into RICHIST with the youth.

Youth Engagement and Youth as Partners

The Voice: The Youth Advocacy & Leadership Board for the Department of Children, Youth & Families provides young adults, ages 14-24, a platform to use their experiences in out-of-home-care to create and facilitate positive change in the child welfare system. As DCYF's identified youth advocates for youth

in the care of the Department, the mission of The Voice is to raise awareness of youth indicated issues within the system, and to seek to empower, educate and promote youth voice and choice, using a youth to youth approach.

ASPIRING Young Leaders Program: The ASPIRING Young Leaders Program (AYLP) was built locally in Rhode Island to mirror a national youth leadership training provided by The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. This three-day program builds upon strengths of youth who have experienced foster care and empowers young leaders to succeed by enhancing their communication, self-advocacy, and strategic sharing skills. Budding young leaders come together to learn how to build relationships and work as a team. AYLP serves as a development program for the youth coming into The Voice. It augments and supports the mission of the work and is an example of a leveraged opportunity through Foster Forward.

Door Openers: Workshops, information sessions and other opportunities hosted by the Consolidated Youth Services Program:

- FAFSA
- Higher Ed
- Income Tax
- Job corps tours
- College tour at RIC
- College Resource workshops (financial aid and educational vocational informational sessions)
- Tax Prep Training
- Skills for RI/ FF Hiring Event
- Education Fair
- Nov 2017 & April 2018 - Customer Service/ Hospitality: 3rd Language Training
- Dec 2017, March & April 2018 We Make RI: Manufacturing Training Orientations

CYS Alumni Events & Opportunities:

- Breezy Acres
- Outdoor movie night
- Haunted House
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- YESS participant holiday event
- Game Night with RC mentors/mentees
- Indoor movie night
- Bowling event for RC mentors/mentees
- Hockey night for RC mentors/mentees
- Seekonk Grand Prix RC Mentor/mentees Spring Fling

Program Evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement

In addition to the NYTD requirements, the Department continues to work with Foster Forward on developing and implementing a strong, outcome-based program evaluation and continuous quality improvement component that has at its center a relational database called ETO by Social Solutions. This tool allows Foster Forward and DCYF to view data across programs and has helped to inform program improvements, practice enhancements, and has demonstrated the power and effectiveness of the CYS array of services. In addition, CYS Case Review and CYS Management meetings are held monthly to ensure quality programming and collaboration.

Young Adults Establishing Self-Sufficiency (YESS) – Voluntary Aftercare Services for Youth Aging out of DCYF Care

Former foster youth who leave our system at age 18 and have yet to reach age 21 are offered access to YESS, the voluntary aftercare services component of the CYS Program which provides participating youth assistance with room and board costs as appropriate to the individual needs of the youth. YESS Aftercare Services are solely funded using state general revenue dollars. No CFCIP funds are used for any expenses related to YESS Aftercare Services. Since this is a state funded service, we have extended this to youth leaving the RI Training School and youth leaving a juvenile probation placement at age 18 or between their 18th and 19th birthdays. Room and Board can include rent, rental deposits and utilities (if included with the apartment) based on the identified needs of the individual youth but does not include the costs of room and board for when a youth is attending college on a full or part time basis if those costs are covered through educational funding streams such as federal grants and loans or Chafee ETV funds. This program can offer emergency assistance with food costs if necessary but generally youth are assisted in accessing income support services for which they may be eligible through other agencies.

Teen Grants and Material supports

The Teen Grant program provides grants of up to \$300 per 12-month period to young people ages 16-21 who are in DCYF-sponsored out-of-home care or who participate in the YESS Aftercare program. These grants allow teens and young adults to participate in normalcy activities or purchase items that will enhance their self-esteem, promote their independence, and further develop their skills and knowledge.

Through work with Foster Forward, members of the Junior League of Rhode Island were introduced to the realities of youth who age out of foster care and some of their struggles and successes. The Junior League identified youth aging out of care as their focus for giving and volunteerism. Over the last year, Junior League members sponsored a game night and a movie night for Real Connections. They also sponsored two a craft night and a movie night with the foster family support team. Several Junior League members have become mentors through the Real Connections program.

Each year Foster Forward works with The Department to coordinate the annual Holiday Gifts Campaign for children and youth in care. Foster Forward also hosts a pajama drive so that every child in care can receive a brand new pair of pajamas, and matches each group home with a sponsor to buy specific gifts off of a young person's wish list. During the Holiday Gifts event, foster Parents are afforded the opportunity to "shop" for gently used clothing items and coats for their foster children, and are given a new pair of new pajamas. Every young person in foster care receives toys donated by Hasbro. Every teen, including those involved with YESS aftercare services, receives a \$25 American Express gift card. Foster Forward also ensures that each young adult involved with YESS aftercare services is matched with a sponsor who purchases gifts for them.

TABLE 1. CONSOLIDATED YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY2018 *(as of 5/10/2018)
Life Skills					242	
Referred	335	317	354	270	113	224*

Youth completing their Life Skills Plan	210	204	201	143		79*
Teen Grant						
Active Participants	265	228	260	284	274	239*
Total Grants	\$73,239	\$69,363	\$64,498	\$70,863	\$81,370	\$69,108*
ASPIRE						
Active Participants	376	388	340	316	381	395*
New Enrollments	69	57	37	67	94	43*
Real Connections						
Active Participants	208	199	183	178	174	151*
New Enrollments	82	48	58	41	57	54*
YESS						
Active Participants	351	331	297	311	324	272*
New Enrollments	98	107	103	128	82	44*

TABLE 2. NYTD SURVEY PARTICIPATION (COHORT 1)

NYTD	FFY 2011 Baseline	FFY 2013 19-year-old follow-up	FFY 2015 21-year-old follow-up
Referred	221	171	171
Completed	171	136	126
Pending Completion	N/A	N/A	N/A
Incomplete	28	35	45
Participation Rate	87%	80%	74%

TABLE 3: NYTD SURVEY PARTICIPATION (COHORT 2)

NYTD	FFY 2014 Baseline	FFY 2016 19-year-old follow-up	FFY2018 21 year-old follow-up Cohort A	FFY 2018 21 year-old follow-up Cohort B

Referred	189	156	82	74
Completed	156	113	57	*18
Pending Completion	N/A	N/A	N/A	*56
Incomplete	33	42	25	N/A
Participation Rate	83%	73%	69%	*24%

TABLE 4: NYTD SURVEY PARTICIPATION (COHORT 3)		
NYTD	FFY 2017 Baseline	FFY 2018 18-year-old follow-up Cohort A
Referred	143	63
Completed	116	49
Pending Completion	N/A	N/A
Incomplete	27	14
Participation Rate	81%	78%

Leveraged Opportunities

The Department continues to have strong relationships with sister state agencies and community partners. This in turn has provides us, directly and through our partners, greater opportunities to provide services to our older youth. Examples of this include:

RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) Youth Workforce Development

The Department has an ongoing collaboration with the Department of Labor and Training and DLT funded efforts in several ways. We sit as a member of the Plan Management Team for DLT's Unified Workforce Plan. The Department works closely with the Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Board and the Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Board ensure access to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded programs by utilizing a streamlined application process we co-developed with those groups.

The Department continues to support DLT's efforts in developing a Career Pathways system that aligns with the Governor's Real Jobs Initiative. Real Jobs RI is a demand driven, workforce and economic development initiative that is collaborative, flexible and business-led. It is designed to ensure that Rhode Island employers have the talent they need to compete and grow while providing targeted education and skills training for Rhode Island workers. The goal of Real Jobs RI is to develop Real Jobs Partnerships (RJPs) that convene industry employers, key stakeholders and groups in partnerships that build alliances to address business workforce demands. The Career Pathways system is to align and integrate a range of public funding streams and programs along those pathways; and create system to those pathways to enable low-skilled, low-literacy, and long-term unemployed workers to successfully access those pathways and in turn, access the private-sector training and experience needed to gain greater economic stability.

DCYF continues to partner with the Governor Workforce Board (GWB) on a work-readiness program for students at the Thomas C. Slater Training School (RITS). The GWB's two local workforce boards, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston & Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island, fund four Youth Centers operated by the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP). CCAP operates the Cranston, Pawtucket, Providence and Warwick Youth Centers. The CCAP provided twenty (20) hours of work-readiness instruction to all students during school vacation weeks. In addition, students completed the Youth Center enrollment process and have access to a case manager and job trainer. This streamlined entry of RITS students into RI's youth workforce system through any one of the fourteen (14) Youth Centers upon release. A CCAP case manager is then assigned to start the student's individualized career goal process and contextualized learning in their chosen field. Based on their individualized career goals, students will be exposed to work experiences such as paid internships, summer employment, and occupational skills training. Some students may go directly into employment or postsecondary opportunities with the assistance from a job trainer. Upon release, the case manager provides follow up services and implements their career goals.

DCYF, in partnership with the Institute for Labor Studies and Research, piloted another year of Jumpstart: Pathway to Apprenticeship pilot program. This pilot program is offered to twenty (20) students from the RITS and Ocean Tides to participated in a nine-week, 104 hours, skilled trade instruction. Students received ILSR's "Health and Safety, Rights on the Job, and Workers' Compensation Training" which all youth hired with WIOA funds in the state of RI are mandated too complete. In addition, students received their OSHA certification and ramped up their math skills in order to pass the math test required for acceptance into an apprenticeship program. Students are also exposed to a "day in the life" of an apprentice in each of the skilled trades. Trades include: painting, carpentry, plumbing and pipefitting, operational engineering, etc.

[Farm Fresh Rhode Island/The Harvest Kitchen Project/RI Office of Rehabilitation](#)

The Harvest Kitchen Project is a 20-week culinary and job-readiness training program for youth. In the first 15 weeks' youth learn basic culinary arts skills and receive industry certifications. The following five weeks, youth participate in employment internships to further develop their job readiness and employable job skills. Also, the youth create a line of high-quality preserved foods using ingredients sourced from local farmers at a certified kitchen in Pawtucket. Products made in the Harvest Kitchen are sold at local stores, farmers markets and to wholesale customers.

In 2017, DCYF entered into (18) eighteen-month contract for \$343,069.50 with Farm Fresh RI, the vendor that oversees the day to day operation of the Harvest Kitchen. The contract provides stipends to the youth and allows the Harvest Kitchen to double the amount of youth served to (40) forty youth per year. The Harvest Kitchen project has expanded into a new facility located at 2 Baylee St in Pawtucket, RI. This new space will be the permanent home of the Culinary Arts Training Project. However, it will also be the future home of the Harvest Kitchen Corner Store and Café opening in the Summer of 2017. This expansion will include a café, retail sales, prepared food and continue to provide culinary arts training and paid internships. The new location will allow for more paid internships, direct employment opportunities for graduates and increased training opportunities for youth in other areas such as marketing, customer service and sales, shipping and receiving to name a few. In addition, DCYF collaborated with the Office of Rehabilitation in supporting the Harvest Kitchen program for foster care youth that have a disability which effects their ability to find and secure gainful employment.

Housing/Runaway and Homeless youth:

The Department continues to take a leadership role within the state's Housing and Homelessness Prevention Community. Mike Burk, Administrator for Youth Development and Educational Support Services, is a member of the state's Continuum of Care Committee and sits on the Unaccompanied Youth Work Group. There is currently no Runaway and Homeless Youth HUD Grantee in Rhode Island. However, the Department continues to collaborate with the Continuum of Care on finding ways to address this gap. The Continuum of Care recently applied for HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) grant and we are waiting to hear the outcome. DCYF continues to be an integral part of that team. As well, DCYF is working with the Continuum of Care and three public housing authorities to jointly apply for the recently announced Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) through HUD.

Voluntary Extension of Care

In June 2018, Governor Gina Raimondo signed into law the Voluntary Extension of Care Act, which authorizes the extension of Foster Care to age 21 using Title IV-E criteria. As a result of this new law, the Department is creating an internal Youth Development Services Unit of six social caseworkers and one casework supervisor. This unit will be responsible for the case management of VEC participants and will be the primary individuals responsible for ensuring youth succeed in being prepared for adulthood.

Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage

Outside of the scope of the CYS Program, the Department, through our partnership with the state Medicaid agency, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), continues to provide access to health insurance coverage for youth exiting care through the Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage Group. As of January 1, 2014 the Affordable Care Act (ACA) extended the Post Foster Care Medicaid coverage group ("Chafee Medicaid") to youth who aged out of foster care until the youth's 26th birthday became a reality. Now, any youth who left or leaves foster care on or after the youth's 18th birthday (as of January 1, 2007) is eligible for Post Foster Care Medicaid. DCYF automatically enrolls youth aging out in Post Foster Care Medicaid as soon as the youth's case closes to Family Court. If VEC is approved, VEC Participants will remain covered through our normal Medicaid coverage for foster youth until age 21 (or before if they exit the program prior to age 21.) When closed to VEC, they will automatically be enrolled in the Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage group.

Simultaneously, the Department continues to look at the current state of healthcare coverage and services for all children and youth involved with the Department, identify the challenges to ensuring that their healthcare needs are being met effectively, and develop and implement a plan of action to overcome these challenges.

2015-2019 Goals & Accomplishments

Goal 1: The Department will enter into a new CYS Program contract with Foster Forward.

- **The Department intends to procure youth development services either through re-procurement or develop other methods of procuring youth development services.**

FFY 2016: The CYS contract was extended to end on June 30, 2016. As part of our ongoing system transformation efforts, the Department will be extending this contract again commencing on July 1, 2016 for a period for six to nine months.

FFY 2017: The CYS contract was extended to end on June 30, 2107. As part of our ongoing system transformation efforts, the Department is negotiating with Foster Forward for a one-year contract extension July 1, 2017.

FFY 2017: The CYS contract was again extended to June 30, 2018. The Department is also in the process of extending this contract on a modified basis through June 30, 2019 to ensure continuity of services for current YESS participants and for Chafee funded Independent Living Services. We also anticipate that initially Foster Forward will provide Enhanced Case Management Services for referred VEC youth. We are also moving forward on re-procuring Chafee funded services and procuring Enhanced Case Management services through an RFP or RFPs which we anticipate will be advertised sometime in the October 2018 – December 2018 time frame.

Goal 2: The Department will meet the expectations of NYTD on an annual basis

- **Ensure ongoing served population reporting requirements are met (Ongoing: 2015-2019)**

FFY 2016: Currently only CYS Program staff record services for the served population in RICHIST. DCYF's leadership has identified transition as a priority and we are working to develop a plan on how to capture the breadth of services provided to youth in the served population as a part of this focus. This plan will include specific definitions of the served population, definitions of services and mechanisms for capturing this information in RICHIST. It will include a training plan for internal and external staff who provide and/or are expected to record these services as well as how to ensure the services are connected to the youth's transition plan.

FFY 2017: CYS Program staff remain the only individuals allowed to record services for the served population in RICHIST. DCYF's leadership continues to identify transition as a priority and will continue to explore a method to capture the breadth of services provided to youth in the served population as a part of this focus. The method will include specific definitions of the served population, definitions of services and mechanisms for capturing this information in RICHIST. It will include a training plan for internal and external staff who provide and/or are expected to record these services as well as how to ensure the services are connected to the youth's transition plan.

FFY 2018: The CYS Program staff continue to capture services provided through this contract and will do so with any contract extension that carries into state fiscal year 2019. We are also developing plans for the new VEC unit staff, if this passes, to collect and enter such data from other sources.

- **Use data from served population reports and surveys to inform and improve practice within DCYF and with external partners (Ongoing: 2015-2019)**

FFY 2016: The Consultation Center at Yale has provided a preliminary analysis of the Department's NYTD Plus data for the 2011 17-year-old baseline and the follow up cohort at age 19. The analysis included descriptive statistics on all of the NYTD outcomes at age 17 (baseline) and at age 19 (follow up). They also conducted a preliminary Latent Class Analysis against service data but the Department is still conducting quality assurance checks on the data used for this. There were 170 youth in the baseline, age 17. Among those youth, 38.2% were females and 61.8% were males. Seventy percent were White, 17.6% were African American, and 21.8% reported Hispanic ethnicity. The percent of youth still in care at age 19 was 17.5%. The Department is currently reviewing this before publication.

FFY 2017: The Consultation Center at Yale has provided the completed analysis of the Department's NYTD Plus data for the 2011 17-year-old baseline and the follow up cohort at age 19.

The analysis includes descriptive statistics on all of the NYTD outcomes at age 17 (baseline) and at age 19 (follow up). They also conducted a Latent Class Analysis against service data. The Department is still conducting quality assurance checks on the data used for this. On March 27, 2017 the Department met with a representative of the Consultation Center at Yale and representatives from Foster Forward to share and review the analysis.

On Monday April 10, 2017 Colleen Caron, Administrator of Operations and Data Evaluation and John Scott, Community Liaison met with the Voice, DCYF's Youth Advocacy Group to present the NYTD Analysis to them and collect their feedback and first impression of the information. As a next step, the Department has been meeting to create Education and Employment Fact Sheets based on the NYTD analysis to distribute publicly. In May of 2017, Blanca Merced, Vice President of the Voice (the Department's Youth Advocacy Group for youth in care) met RI Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and used the RI NYTD FY11-15 Data Snapshot and the state's NYTD Analysis to highlight some of the positive outcomes for older youth here in RI.

FFY 2018: The Department published our first snapshot of NYTD Survey findings in Summer 2017. This snapshot focused on Education, Employment and Financial Self-Sufficiency Outcomes. We anticipate publishing additional snapshots in the future.

- **Achieve the federally required participation rates in each reporting year.**

FFY 2016: ACF's records show that they count only 113 of 156 youth as being properly reported by the Department. While Foster Forward collected and entered the data within expected time frames, data programming language used by DCYF failed to include 43 records which should have been reported. This was identified by DCYF in May 2016 and we are working to correct and see if ACF will allow a corrected data set to be uploaded. The actual numbers are as follows: 60 for Period A (not 71) and 53 for Period B (not 71). Based on the 113 names in the NYTD Portal, the survey completion rate was 48 out of 60 for Period A (80%) and 47 out of 53 in Period B (88%) as of 6/16/2016.

FFY2017: This was a baseline year for Cohort 3. There were a total of 143 referrals for baseline surveys for the year. Foster Forward completed 116 baseline surveys within the 45-day period for an 81% completion rate.

FFY2018: This is a federally required year to collect 21 year old follow up surveys. Foster Forward completed 57 out of 82 (69%) for Cohort A by March 31, 2018. 5 out of 57 were still in care (9%). As of May 10, 2018, Foster Forward has collected 18 out of 74 for Cohort B.

- **DCYF will continue to provide analysis and reporting of NYTD data. By January 2015 DCYF will implement strategies to address NYTD's site visit concerns.**

FFY 2016: The NYTD Site Visit Report included 22 concerns identified by the Federal Monitoring Team – fourteen (14) of which required DCYF to take action to correct and eight (8) recommended that DCYF take action to correct. Of the fourteen (14) concerns which required action, the Department has fully implemented corrective actions on twelve (12) items. Of the eight (8) where action was recommended by not required, the Department has fully implemented corrective actions on seven (7) and has begun to address the 8th. The items we continue to work on are as follows (the numeration of these is based on Summary of Observations found in the NYTD Site Visit Report):

Item 8, NYTD Elements 20-33 (Required): These data elements relate to the spectrum of independent living services on which States are required to report as NYTD Services. Currently RI reports only on services provided through the Consolidated Youth Services contract with Foster Forward. The Department is exploring the recent intent of ACF to provide States with resources to improve data management systems by moving from a SACWIS model to a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) model as described in the recent ACF Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Our initial review suggests that, should this rule go into effect, it will provide us with the opportunity to transform our data management system from one that is primarily case management focused to one that provides more robust opportunities for data collection and analysis while still ensuring quality case management support. This will then provide us with the mechanism necessary to more fully report NYTD services.

FFY 2018: If the Voluntary Extension of Care is approved, we are considering how the new caseworkers assigned to the Youth Development Support Services Unit can assist with the collection and entry of this data.

Item 13, NYTD Element 33 – Data Collection and Reporting – Other Financial Assistance (Required): Currently RI reports only on services provided through the Consolidated Youth Services contract with Foster Forward. We do not have a mechanism to collect and report on such data outside of the CYS contract. The Department is exploring the recent intent of ACF to provide States with resources to improve data management systems by moving from a SACWIS model to a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) model as described in the recent ACF Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Our initial review suggests that, should this rule go into effect, it will provide us with the opportunity to transform our data management system from one that is primarily case management focused to one that provides more robust opportunities for data collection and analysis while still ensuring quality case management support. This will then provide us with the mechanism necessary to more fully report NYTD services.

FFY 2018: If the Voluntary Extension of Care is approved, we are considering how the new caseworkers assigned to the Youth Development Support Services Unit can assist with the collection and entry of this data.

Item 20, NYTD Survey Data Analysis (Recommended): The Consultation Center at Yale has provided a preliminary analysis of the Department's NYTD Plus data for the 2011 17-year-old baseline and the follow up cohort at age 19. The analysis included descriptive statistics on all of the NYTD outcomes at age 17 (baseline) and at age 19 (follow up). They also conducted a preliminary Latent Class Analysis against service data but the Department is still conducted quality assurance checks on the data used for this. There were 170 youth in the baseline, age 17. Among those youth, 38.2% were females and 61.8% were males. Seventy percent were White, 17.6% were African American, and 21.8% reported Hispanic ethnicity. The percent of youth still in care at age 19 was 17.5%. The Department is currently reviewing this before publication.

FFY 2017: As mentioned above, the Consultation Center at Yale has provided the completed analysis of the Department's NYTD Plus data for the 2011 17-year-old baseline and the follow up cohort at age 19. The analysis includes descriptive statistics on all of the NYTD outcomes at age 17 (baseline) and at age 19 (follow up). They also conducted a Latent Class Analysis against service data. On March 27, 2017 the Department met with a representative of the Consultation Center at Yale and representatives from Foster Forward to share and review the analysis. As a next step, the Department has created an Education and Employment Fact Sheets based on the NYTD analysis which will soon be distributed to key stakeholders. In May of 2017, Blanca Merced, Vice President of the Voice met RI Senate President Dominick Ruggerio to discuss the extension of foster care to

the age of 21 her in RI. Blanca used the RI NYTD FY11-15 Data Snapshot to highlight some of the positive outcomes for older youth here in RI.

FFY 2018: The Department published our first snapshot of NYTD Survey findings in Summer 2017. This snapshot focused on Education, Employment and Financial Self-Sufficiency Outcomes. We anticipate publishing additional snapshots in the future.

- **Implement survey with 2nd Cohort with the goal of achieving these identified participation rates in each reporting year: 2014- 95% in care youth and 75% out of care youth; 2016 – 95% in care youth and 80% out of care youth; 2018 – 95% in care youth and 85% out of care youth**

FFY 2016: ACF's records show that they count only 113 of 156 youth as being properly reported by the Department. While Foster Forward collected and entered the data within expected time frames, data programming language used by DCYF failed to include 43 records which should have been reported. This was identified by DCYF in May 2016 and we are working to correct and see if ACF will allow a corrected data set to be uploaded. The actual numbers are as follows: 60 for Period A (not 71) and 53 for Period B (not 71). Based on the 113 names in the NYTD Portal, the survey completion rate was 48 out of 60 for Period A (80%) and 47 out of 53 in Period B (88%) as of 6/16/2016.

FFY2018: This is a federally required year to collect 21-year-old follow up surveys. Foster Forward completed 55 out of 82 (67%) for Cohort A by March 31, 2018. 5 out of 57 were still in care (9%). As of May 10, 2018, Foster Forward has collected 18 out of 74 for Cohort B.

Goal 3: The Department in consultation with the Child Welfare Institute will develop training plans which provides effective training opportunities to staff and community agencies in regard to working with older youth in care, those aging out or who have left care and building strong personalized transition plans.

As a part of our review of all contracts to determine the most effective way to provide services and supports to our clients and our staff, the Department decided to not extend our contract with the Child Welfare Institute and that contract ended on April 30, 2016. Three Clinical Training Specialists from CWI have returned to DCYF and form the core of our newly formed Training and Staff Development Unit. This unit is now responsible for the development of and the delivery of staff training and development services so the above Goal will be modified to remove references to the CWI in future reports.

- **Implement Incentive Training Program on Youth Development by April 2015**

FFY 2016: While some efforts have been made at developing this component, no specific program has been developed. As the Department reviews our training delivery process and our training needs, we will include this in the discussion.

FFY 2017: While no specific incentive training program has been developed at this time. As the Department reviews our training delivery process and our training needs, we will include this in the discussion. On January 5, 2017 the Youth Development and Educational Supports team presented to a class of new social workers around the suite of services provided by the Consolidated Youth Services contract, transition planning, credit checks, and educational supports. There have also been information sessions with internal staff on effective transition planning for older youth as it relates to Title IV-E on April 26th and 28th, 2017 and on June 3rd, 2nd and 5th, 2017; Throughout the month of September of 2016, the Department held prudent parenting trainings for internal staff and external partners throughout the state of RI.

FFY 2018: The YDES staff continue to provide training on youth development and transition planning to new staff in the New Worker Training programs, the most recent conducted on 6/4/18. Additionally, if the VEC passes and then is implemented, this will include specialized training for the YDES staff, including topics such as motivational interviewing, adolescent brain development, social capital development, transition planning and asset building. Eventually we see this being offered to a wider array of DCYF staff and partners.

Increased Training Opportunities for Personalized Transition Planning

FFY 2016: The Youth Development and Support Unit is working with other agency staff to develop various staff development opportunities which address the Prudent Parenting and Normalcy requirements under Title IV-E. These opportunities will include a focus on effective transition planning.

FFY 2017: The Department held information sessions with internal staff on effective transition planning for older youth as it relates to Title IV-E on April 26th and 28th, 2017 and on June 3rd, 2nd and 5th, 2017. These information sessions were held in the Department's various regions and the areas covered addresses permanency and transition planning issues required by the following public laws:

- Public Law 110-351 (2008): Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
 - Transition Planning for Emancipated Youth
- Public Law 111-148 (2010): Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
 - Health Insurance Options
 - Health Care Decision-making and Health Care Proxies
- Public Law 112-34 (2011): Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act
 - Annual Credit Checks for foster youth (16+)
- Public Law: PL 113-183 (2014): Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
 - Limited application of Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA)
 - Additional Transition Planning Requirements (14+)
 - Discharge Plan 90 days before 18th Birthday
 - Annual Credit Checks for foster youth lowered to 14+

FFY 2018: The YDES staff continue to provide training on youth development and transition planning to new staff in the New Worker Training programs, the most recent conducted on 6/4/18. Additionally, if the VEC passes and then is implemented, this will include specialized training for the YDES staff, including topics such as motivational interviewing, adolescent brain development, social capital development, transition planning and asset building. Eventually we see this being offered to a wider array of DCYF staff and partners.

- **Training in Support of Youth Preparing for Independent Living:**

FFY 2016: The Department is in the process of creating a prudent parenting curriculum to support the mandates of the re-issue of the 2014 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. Lori Geiselman, DCYF Clinical Training Specialist is lead on this project. Lori has concluded a series of stakeholder focus groups to ensure the curriculum meets their needs. CYS staff, both internal, external and/or the Voice, youth advocates for youth in the care of the Department participated in

all of the stakeholder focus groups to provide feedback. The projected completion date for the curriculum is expected in August of 2016.

FFY 2017: In August of 2016, the Department completed a prudent parenting curriculum to support the mandates of the re-issue of the 2014 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. Lori Geiselman, DCYF Clinical Training Specialist was the lead on this project. Lori concluded a series of stakeholder focus groups to ensure the curriculum meets their needs. CYS staff, both internal, external and/or the Voice, youth advocates for youth in the care of the Department participated in all of the stakeholder focus groups to provide feedback. Beginning in September of 2017 the Department held prudent parenting trainings for internal staff and external partners throughout the state of RI. Below is a list of the dates and locations of the trainings:

PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD & NORMALCY IN FOSTER CARE

TRAINING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

9/7/16	9-12 & 1-4	CCRI, 400 East Ave., Warwick (Theatre #2510)
9/8/16	9-12	Smith Hill Library, 31 Candace St., Providence
9/8/16	5-8	Foster Forward, 55 S. Brow St., East Providence
9/9/16	9-12 & 1-4	Cumberland Library, Hayden Center, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland
9/12/16	9-12 & 1-4	CCRI, 400 East Ave., Warwick (Conference Rooms 1128/1130)
9/14/16	1-4	St. Mary's Home for Children, 420 Fruit Hill Rd., North Providence
9/14/16	5-8	Foster Forward 55 S. Brow St., East Providence
9/15/16	9-12 & 1-4	Tides Family Services, 215 Washington St., West Warwick
9/19/16	5-8	Foster Forward, 55 S. Brow St., East Providence
*9/20/16	9-12	Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick
9/21/16	9-12 & 1-4	Cumberland Library, Hayden Center, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland
9/23/16	9-12 & 1-4	Ocean Tides School, 635 Ocean Road, Narragansett
9/26/16	1-4	Alliance Human Services, 14 Breakneck Hill Rd, Ste 201, Lincoln
9/27/16	9-12	Family Service, 134 Thurbers Ave., Providence
9/27/16	1-4	St. Mary's Home for Children, 420 Fruit Hill Rd., North Providence
9/28/16	9-12 & 1-4	Jamestown Philomenian Library, 26 North Rd., Jamestown
*9/29/16	5-8	Foster Forward, 55 S. Brow St., East Providence

***Sessions in bold are delivered in Spanish Language (9/20/16 & 9/29/16)**

FFY 2018: The YDES staff continue to provide training on youth development and transition planning to new staff in the New Worker Training programs, the most recent conducted on 6/4/18. Additionally, if the VEC passes and then is implemented, this will include specialized training for the YDES staff, including topics such as motivational interviewing, adolescent brain development, social capital development, transition planning and asset building. Eventually we see this being offered to a wider array of DCYF staff and partners.

Table 5 below provides details of training and staff development opportunities conducted through the DCYF Training and Staff Development Unit. July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018

Table 5:

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Core I-Adoption & Permanency	During this training, participants will learn about the different permanency options for children & youth in care. Participants will also learn about the adoption process and post adoption services.	6.5	7/14/17	25	New DCYF FSU
			8/15/17	7	New DCYF FSU
Core I-Adoption & Permanency	During this training, participants will learn about the different permanency options for children & youth in care. Participants will also learn about core clinical issues that often translate into behaviors to be aware of. This is a shortened version and provides a brief overview for CST audience.	2	9/19/17	9	New DCYF CST
Core I-Adoption & Permanency	Participants will learn about the different permanency options for children & youth in care. Participants will also learn about the adoption process and post adoption services.	3.5	2/9/18	3	New DCYF FSU
			3/2/18	6	New DCYF FSU
			3/28/18	2	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Child & Adolescent Development & Impact of Abuse Neglect: Special Safe Sleep/Early Inter	<p>Participants will learn about normative child development and the impact of abuse and neglect on child development. Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn six domains of development: - Learn normative development of infants/toddlers - Learn normative development of school-age children - Learn normative development of adolescents - Discuss normative development of adults - Learn factors that influence development - Learn impact of Abuse and neglect on development. - Learn & apply information to practice - Discuss values & cultural considerations re: abuse & neglect <p>IN ADDITION: Participants will learn about Safe Sleep Initiative and Early Intervention Program</p>	3.5	12/1/17	7	New DCYF CPS

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Core I- Child/Adolescent Development and the Impact of Child Abuse & Neglect	Participants will learn about normative child development and the impact of abuse and neglect on child development. Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn six domains of development - Learn normative development of infants/toddlers - Learn normative development of school-age children - Learn normative development of adolescents - Discuss normative development of adults - Learn factors that influence development - Learn impact of Abuse and neglect on development. - Learn & apply information to practice - Discuss values & cultural considerations re: abuse & neglect 	4.5	6/20/17	23	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU, JCS
			9/12/17	24	New DCYF CPS, FSU,
			3/6/18	9	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			4/20/18	6	New DCYF CPS, FSU, JCS
Core I- Comprehensive Assessment & Service Planning	Participants will learn the foundations of best practice, the process of comprehensive assessment & service planning and apply these concepts to the family story and risk & protective capacity assessment tool.	6.5	7/12/17	25	New DCYF FSU, JCS
			8/11/17	8	New DCYF FSU
			2/20/18	7	New DCYF FSU
			5/18/18	6	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Cultural Competent Practice LGBTQ Population	During this training, participant will understand policies, issues & biases affecting LGBTQ individuals. They will be able to define Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning orientations, they will Discuss how LGBTQ orientation affects adolescent development, they will identify resources for LGBTQ adolescents, apply principles of development to child welfare services for LGBTQ youth, discuss values & cultural considerations affecting LGBTQ youth, etc.	6.5	11/10/17	11	New DCYF FSU
			11/15/17	16	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			11/10/17	6	New DCYF CPS
			05/29/18	16	New DCYF CPS, FSU, JCS
Core I- Domestic Violence, Risk & Protective Capacity	During this training, participants will integrate information with assessment of Risk and Protective Capacity. They will learn the dynamics of family violence; learn the impact on children, and will examine factors which support provision of comprehensive	6.5	6/27/17	28	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU, JCS
			8/30/17	10	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			11/16/17	6	New DCYF CPS

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	services to families involved in domestic violence situations.		04/24/18	13	New DCYF CPS, FSU
Core I - Educational Services & Resources for Children & Youth Involved in Child Welfare	During this training participants will learn about educational resources & services available to RI's children. They will also: receive an overview of regular and special education policies and procedures relating to child welfare; will meet and learn from educational professionals; and will explore ways of collaborating and communicating across systems.	3.5	12/11/17	10	New DCYF FSU
			12/18/17	13	New DCYF FSU
		3	6/04/18	9	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Engagement & Interviewing in Child Welfare	Participants will explore knowledge and skills related to engagement in child welfare. Participants will learn the process and different skills for enhancing engagement and building positive relationships. Participants will be able to use interviewing skills to gather accurate information needed for child welfare practice including assessment and permanency planning. In this training, participants will strengthen their child interviewing skills by learning tips for enhancing communication, appropriate use of language, questioning typology and the types & phases of interviews for use in effective child and family case management.	6.5	6/15/17	8	New DCYF FSU
			6/16/17	11	New DCYF CST, FSU, JCS
			7/26/17	15	New DCYF FSU
			1/5/18	3	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			2/1/18	4	New DCYF FSU
		3.5	2/21/18	2	New DCYF FSU
		3	3/26/18	5	New DCYF CPS, FSU
Core I- Establishing Boundaries	<p>This workshop will discuss boundary concepts, the importance of maintaining boundaries, and how to address various boundary dilemmas. Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the meaning of professional boundaries - When a youth presents with boundary confusion - Importance of seeking supervision when in doubt 	1	7/13/17	10	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Expedited Permanency Meetings (EPM) DCYF Staff Orientation	<p>This training is designed to prepare front-line staff & Supervisors for their role and participation in the EPM process. This training utilizes a variety of teaching techniques to emphasize the values & benefits of family engagement. During this training participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focus on the role of extended family & natural networks in helping to customize 	3	8/29/17	37	New DCYF CST, FSU

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	supports for youth as they safely transition to family & community; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - become familiar w/the EPM meeting stages & process; - explore their role before, during & after an EPM, highlighting the critical importance of preparation 				
Core I- Foundational Visitation: Understanding Family-Centered Visitation Practices	The training frames the expectation of visitation practice at DCYF from both theoretical and practical perspectives. This training provides an opportunity to take visitation from a one dimensional task perspective and redefine it as one of the core practices guiding permanency planning and child welfare practice. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss and apply related materials to visitation scenarios.	6	6/8/17	18	New DCYF CST, FSU
			7/28/17	15	New DCYF FSU
			1/11/18	4	New DCYF FSU
			2/8/18	3	New DCYF FSU
			5/11/18	5	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Interstate Compacts: ICPC's & ICJ's	Participants will learn about normative child development and the impact of abuse and neglect on child development. Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn six domains of development: - Learn normative development of infants/toddlers - Learn normative development of school-age children - Learn normative development of adolescents - Discuss normative development of adults - Learn factors that influence development - Learn impact of Abuse and neglect on development. - Learn & apply information to practice - Discuss values & cultural considerations re: abuse & neglect 	3	12/7/17	11	New DCYF FSU
			12/14/17	13	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Interviewing Children & Adults	This training focuses on the basic skills Child Protective Investigators need in-order to conduct successful interviews with children and adults. The training will also explore ideal settings/atmosphere for interviews, types of interview questions and understanding the difference between interviewing and interrogation.	6	7/24/17	6	New DCYF CPS
		3.5	11/14/17	7	New DCYF CPS

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Core I- Intro to Trauma Informed Child Welfare Practice	Participants will begin to learn about the impact trauma has on child development, brain development and child behavior. Participants will explore the essential elements of trauma informed child welfare practice and their role in supporting trauma exposed children & youth.	6.5	7/21/17	22	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU, JCS
			8/8/17	14	New DCYF CPS
			11/17/17	6	New DCYF CPS
			1/2/18	5	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			3/1/18	5	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Managing Gang Populations	<p>This educates participants about gang trends and issues and explains why youth join gangs. Participants will learn about gathering gang intelligence within the facility and the impact gangs has on facilities. Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain a greater understanding of why youth join gangs - Understand the impact gangs have on juvenile correction settings - Increased ability to provide facility with gang assessment and documentation protocols - Greater knowledge of facility-based anti-gang strategies - Explore additional resources 	2	8/3/17	10	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Out of Home Placement and Intensive Search for Natural Supports	Participants will learn laws that govern placement and insure Family Preservation. Participants will examine policies and practices for working with children, youth & families to identify Natural Supports. Participants will explore resources to support efforts for locating and engaging Natural Supports.	3.5	7/17/17	18	New DCYF CST, FSU, JCS
			8/10/17	7	New DCYF FSU
			3/16/18	7	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Overview of Child Welfare in a Multi-Cultural Environment	The participant will demonstrate ability and sensitivity to family's differences in culture and ethnicity workshop will provide an overview of the U.S. Immigration system including an understanding of various immigration statuses, ways people come to the United States, refugee resettlement process, and the pathway to becoming a U.S. citizen. The workshop will use multimedia	6	7/28/17	23	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU, JCS
			9/01/17	14	New DCYF FSU
			11/08/17	6	New DCYF CPS

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	and interactive methods to promote cross-cultural sensitivity and understanding when working with DCYF involved Children, Youth & Families.	6.5	04/18/18	9	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Overview of Juv. Court & Kent County Court Site Visit	This training will: Provide an overview of Family Court; Discuss & define roles, range of authority, & responsibilities; Discuss SW expectations; Overview of Courtroom behavior; Understand the importance of relationship with court; Prepare Social workers for site visit to family court; and participants will visit Juvenile Probation Office, Kent County Courthouse.	2	9/21/17	8	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Overview of Juvenile Correctional Services	This class provides a general overview of Juvenile Correctional Services. Trainer will review Rhode Island Training School and Juvenile Probation and Parole. Participants will learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History, including Sockanosset Reform School, Oaklawn Girls and Boys School - Discipline and Rehabilitation - Federal Court Order - Roosevelt Benton Youth Assessment Center and Thomas E Slater Youth Development Center - RITS Programming 	2	7/10/17	10	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Parent Mental Health-Implications for Child Welfare	Participants will learn how parents' mental health impact safety, permanency & well-being. Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify ways in which parent mental health can impact parenting & protective capacity - Build understanding of common mental health diagnosis working with child welfare involved parents - Understand what dual diagnosis is and how it might impact child welfare work with parents - Identify ways in which parent mental health can impact engagement, 	6	7/03/17	24	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU
			7/18/17	9	New DCYF FSU

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	assessment, service planning and permanency - Explore stigma related to parents' mental health diagnosis - Identify ways to build empathy and promote understanding - Explore cultural implications related to parent mental health - Learn how to identify and access resources		4/11/18	4	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Positive Youth Development	Positive Youth Development Learning Objectives: - Define what Positive Youth Development is - Examine all the different aspects of adolescent development - Identify some challenges of incarcerated adolescents vs. other adolescents - How the Juvenile Program Worker implements Positive Youth Development as part of their job duties	1	7/11/17	10	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Prudent Parent Standard & Normalcy in Foster Care	This training will allow participants to explore Prudent Parenting and Normalcy and apply what they have learned to case scenarios. Learning Objectives: - Provide an introduction to Normalcy and Prudent Parent Standard provisions of Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PL 113-183); - Learn about Subtitle B-Improving Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Supporting Permanency, Section 111, Supporting Normalcy for Children in Foster Care; - Provide legal definitions and guidelines for normalcy and the prudent parent standard; - Define roles and responsibilities of stakeholders; - Discuss examples of how to apply normalcy and the prudent parent standard; - Describe supports & further resources	3.5	7/21/17	14	New DCYF FSU
			12/29/17	4	New DCYF FSU
			2/12/18	7	New DCYF CPS, FSU
Core I- Question, Persuade & Refer (QPR) Youth	QPR is an evidence based suicide prevention gatekeeper training. During this 2-hour	3	9/26/17	27	New DCYF FSU

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Suicide Prevention	workshop, participants will learn basic statistics around the frequency of suicide completions, attempts, and statistics around youth in care. This workshop is designed to train adults that work with youth how to identify warning signs of a youth a risk for suicide, how to ask questions, persuade the youth to seek help, and how to refer the youth for further assessment/treatment in the community.				
Core I- R.I. Services & Supports for Adults, Youth, & Children w/Developmental and Other Disabilities	Participants will learn about a diverse population (children, youth and adults with developmental or other disabilities). Participants will learn about RI services and supports. Learning objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify factors affecting the development of special populations - Identify resources for special populations - Apply principles of development to child welfare services for special populations - Discuss values and cultural considerations affecting special populations 	3	8/1/17	39	New DCYF CST, FSU
			11/07/17	7	New DCYF CPS
Core I- Recording Restraints at the RITS	This course will cover policies and procedures associated with restraint situations. The use of physical restraint policy #832 and Use of force/corporal punishment policy #1207 will be reviewed. Participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand under what circumstance physical force or restraint us to be used - Understand the meaning of Contained Settings - Learn about authorized recording devices (Hand held camera or body camera) and their use - Understand what behaviors warrant a restraint when in a contained setting - Participate in a discussion exercise that explores What Should I do if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *There is a suicide attempt? *A resident refuses to leave a room? *Resident is not following direction and attempts property destruction? 	2	8/01/11	11	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand How to properly record a restraint - Understand Post restraint procedures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Documentation of restraint *Notifications *Debriefing 				
Core I- Removal of Children, Placements & Kinship	In this course, participants will learn about the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact of removing children from home - When to remove a child - Strategy for safety in removing children - How to interact with parents and children - Exploring placement options - Natural supports - CPS forms - Physical examinations after removal - Strategy for minimizing trauma on children - Placements (foster homes/group homes /relatives) - Follow up tasks (RICHIST, ex-parte & documentation) 	3.5	8/22/17	11	New DCYF CPS
			11/21/17	7	New DCYF CPS
Core I- RITS Incentive System - An Overview	This course covers Behavior Management System of Positive Reinforcement. Participants will understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department Policy, Points Sheets, Resident Handbook - Rewards system 	1	7/13/17	10	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Safe Crisis Management Introduction and Rationale for Training	Safe Crisis Management (SCM) Introduction and Rationale for Training is a one hour course and covers the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission - Five "C"s Commitment, Care, Custody, Consistency, Competency, and Courage - Certification Requirements - Rational for SCM Training- Explains how SCM prepares staff to prevent, support and/or manage disruptive and aggressive behaviors - Individual's emotional and physical safety - Least restrictive alternative concept 	1	7/24/17	11	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reality of Individuals Behaviors-Coping, Spontaneous, Manipulative, Learned, Potentially Dangerous - Liability - Legal Issues Effecting Crisis Intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Laws & Acts *Negligence *Informed Consent *Rights & Due Process *Types of Abuse *Reporting Abuse Policy *Excessive Force - Professional Performance - Creating & Maintaining a Culture of Care 				
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: After Incident Procedures	<p>Participants will be able to identify, understand and implement after incident procedures when an incident has been de-escalated and returned to normal. The following protocols will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical Assessment - Mental Health Assessment - Debriefing - Documentation - Incident Review - Behavior Intervention Continuum 	2	7/27/17	11	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: De-escalation Strategies	<p>Participants will learn de-escalation strategies to use when a behavior of concern occurs. The following skills will be covered in class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of the Situation. Assessing an individual's appearance, eyes, escalation level, mood, body language, respiration, voice, variables that may be impacting behavior. purpose of the behavior, individual's history and pattern of behavior, and medications. - Self-Assessment. Consider emotional state, history and relationship, communication style, support for behavior plan. - How to Assess Available Resources and Environment - Non-verbal Interventions - Verbal Interventions 	2	7/26/17	11	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Safe Crisis Management:	This training helps participants understand when to use Emergency Safety Interventions	2	7/26/17	11	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Emergency Safety Interventions	<p>(ESIs) based on the "Least Restrictive Alternative" concept. Participants will be able to list and define the risk/safety factors associated with emergency safety interventions and clearly identify the monitoring responsibilities required during ESIs. Evaluation of the Situation and monitoring during use of ESIs will be explained. The following types of ESIs will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time-out - Seclusion - Mechanical Restraint - Chemical Restraint - Emergency Safety Physical Interventions 				
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: Function-Based Behavior Support Planning	<p>Participants will be able to identify, understand and utilize function-based behavior support planning when necessary. This course will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When is a function-based behavior plan used - Determining the function of a function-based behavior plan - Defining an individual's "Behavior of Concern" (BOC) - Setting events (factors that increase or contribute to the likelihood of an individual using a particular behavior or coping strategy) - Understanding Antecedent Event - Outcomes - Desired and Replacement Behaviors - Behavior Support Planning (BSP) - Implementing, Monitoring, Evaluating, and Revising Behavior Support Plans 	2	7/27/17	11	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: Identifying & Understanding Behaviors of Concern	<p>Participants will be able to identify and understand the common sources, characteristics and types of behaviors of concern. This course covers the various motivations prompting behaviors of concern. Behaviors of concern are described as those that need to be addressed. In addition to discussing factors that stimulate behavior(s) of concern, participants will consider behavior characteristics that provide a concrete method of understanding</p>	1.5	7/24/17	11	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	the psychological and physiological dynamics of an individual's actions.				
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: Prevention Strategies	<p>Participants will be able to identify, understand and utilize prevention strategies designed to avoid escalating behaviors while creating a culture of positive growth and support. Participants will consider and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative Responsibilities, policies that support good practices, supervision and training of staff, necessary resources, and program resources. - Creating Effective Teams - Programming that supports basic and safety needs - How rules can support SCM mission - Consequences - Importance of Structured Environment - Engagement and Relationship Building 	2	7/25/17	11	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: Searches	<p>Participants will exit the training with a comprehensive knowledge of searches and to inform practice related to the electronic search, pat down, strip search and room search in accordance with RITS Policy, PREA and JDAI standards. Upon completion of this training participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a complete understanding of policies 1200.0819 and 1200.0821 - Know how to conduct an electronic search using the Garrett Scanning equipment at the RITS - Know how to conduct a proper pat down search - Know how to conduct a proper strip search - Know how to execute a proper room search <p>Participants will learn through classroom instruction and hands-on practicum</p>	4	7/17/17	11	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: Understanding Individuals	<p>Participants will Identify and understand the factors which influence an individual's developmental growth capacity. Topics covered includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development stages and domains, theoretical models, developmental tasks, and dysfunctional pathway. 	1.5	7/24/17	11	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Variables influencing an individual's development & behavior - Bullying Behaviors 				
Core I- Safe Crisis Management: Universal Principles & Practices	<p>Participants will identify, understand and apply the principles and practices which should be universally and consistently implemented. The following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Boundaries - Effective Communication Techniques - Environmental Awareness and management of all aspects of the environment - Self-Management 	2	7/25/17	11	New DCYF JPW
Core I- Sexual Abuse: Impact of Sexual Abuse on Family Dynamics	<p>Participants will learn the prevalence of child sexual abuse for children & adolescents as victims. Participants will also learn the impact on children, adolescents and adults as non-offenders. Learning Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn definition of sexual abuse - Learn impact of sexual abuse on family - Learn impact of values & cultural considerations of sexual abuse and family dynamics - Understand situation which non-offending parent finds themselves - Know referral resources for intervention, assessment and treatment of victims & offenders - Learn about language development & its impact on interviewing child victims. - Learn tips for testifying in court cases 	12	8/9/17	9	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			2/18/18	8	New DCYF CPS, FSU
Core I- Substance Use Disorders and Case Management	Participant will be able to assess substance use as it relates to risk, safety, and protective capacity. Participants will identify treatment needs of family	6.5	7/07/17	26	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU
			8/02/17	9	New DCYF CPS, JCS
Core I- Suicide Prevention and Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This course will cover the following: - Basic overview of existing literature on suicide attempts and suicidal behavior in juvenile justice settings. - Instructor will review some unique challenges in juvenile correctional setting - Identify high risk periods for incarcerated juveniles - Strategies for systematic screening, triage/referral, further clinical 	2	8/02/17	6	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	assessment, and management of youths presenting with self-injurious and suicidal behaviors - Essential components of an effective suicide prevention program - Understand suicide prevention as a dynamic process and not a one-time event - Review medico-legal liability issues and Risk Management Strategies - Suggestions for the detection and management of difficult behavior in youths - The need for staff training and implementation of suicide training programs - Identification of Symptoms - The MAYSI assessment tool				
Core I- Supervision of Youth	This course covers Juvenile Program Worker duties around supervision of youth at RITS. The following guidelines will be covered: - Supervision specifics (living quarters, meals, classrooms, work sites, program areas, bathroom areas, and during escort) - What expectations residents need to know about moving throughout the facility - Taking count - Communication around movements - Radio transmissions - Safe movement formation - Pat downs - When to "stop the line"	1	8/03/17	9	New DCYF JPW
Core I- The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is a segment of a series of courses that reflect DCYF Policy and Operational enhancements for child welfare agencies in response to the reauthorization of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. Upon completion of this course, participants will: - Learn the definition of Sex Trafficking, Force, Fraud, and Coercion - Understand Types of Sexual Exploitation	3	7/05/17	26	New DCYF CPS, CST, FSU
			8/31/17	8	New DCYF CPS

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage in discussion of Community Perception of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) - Learn common myths vs facts about CSEC - Understand Who is at Risk - Learn about Demands that Fuel Sexual Exploitation - Learn about Recruitment, Victim Impact, Signs of Sexual Exploitation - Engage in learning activity focused on answering Why Victims Stay - Understand Helpful Responses and Community Resources to Address CSEC 		12/4/17	6	New DCYF CPS
			3/27/18	10	New DCYF CPS, FSU
Core I- Understanding Child Welfare Related Legislation	<p>During this training, participants will establish a foundation for key concepts related to permanency planning and connect with practice. Objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants will learn the DCYF Mission & Vision and how it drives the work we do. - Participants will learn the history of child welfare in Rhode Island and implications for change - Participants will build an understanding of the purpose and chronology of the last two decades of child welfare laws - Participants will establish a foundation for key concepts related to permanency planning, especially as it relates to issues of separation and loss - Participants will begin to relate child welfare laws, specifically the Adoption and Safe Families Act, to current child welfare practice - Participants will begin to learn about Concurrent Planning - Participants will learn the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and the Sibling Bill of Rights - Participants will be introduced to the DCYF Permanency Guide 	3	7/17/17	14	New DCYF FSU
			12/26/17	8	New DCYF CPS, FSU
			1/23/18	3	New DCYF FSU
			2/19/18	2	New DCYF FSU
			3/19/18	2	New DCYF FSU
	Participants will increase their knowledge about the DSM IV and Mental Health Status	3	9/06/17	12	New DCYF FSU

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Core I- Understanding the DSM-IV/TR	Exams and how these tools relate to child welfare. It provides a brief overview of the history of the DSM IV and the different diagnostic categories.		9/26/17	10	New DCYF CST, FSU
Core I- Using Cross System Collaboration to Create Connections for Youth	Participants will explore and learn to utilize Eco-Maps & Relationship Mapping as tools for enhancing casework practice & promoting lifetime connections for youth in care to adults who care. After attending this training, participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the relevance of Eco-Maps and Relationship Mapping to child welfare practice. - Possess the collegial contacts and tools needed to utilize Eco-Maps and Relationship Mapping - Mapping within their casework practice as a means of connecting youth in care to caring adults for their future. - Demonstrate their ability as a unit to complete an Eco-Maps and Relationship Mapping 	3.5	9/22/17	8	New DCYF FSU
		3	10/19/17	14	New DCYF FSU
		3	2/09/17	3	New DCYF FSU
		3	3/02/18	4	New DCYF FSU
		3	3/28/18	2	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Working with Adolescents in Child Welfare	During this training, participants will learn how to work with adolescents in child welfare. Focus on supporting youth and achieving permanency. Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore perceptions of youth in child welfare - Review reasons for youth involvement - Explore barriers to permanency for older youth - Learn strategies for achieving permanency for youth in out of home care. - Learn resources for adolescents 	6	9/13/17	14	New DCYF FSU
			9/20/17	10	New DCYF FSU
Core I- Youth who Sexually Abuse	This course will introduce participants to the following concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitions of sexually offending - Characteristics of youth who sexually offend - Risk factors - How to most effectively supervise youth who sexually offend 	2	8/02/17	7	New DCYF JPW

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Core II- Trauma Informed Child Welfare Practice	This 3-Day (18 hour) course will focus on the essential elements of trauma informed child welfare practice. Participants will learn the knowledge and skills necessary to identify traumatic stress, understand the impact it has on child development and behavior, and develop effective strategies for intervention. This workshop will also focus on secondary trauma and self-care for child welfare professionals. This curriculum is a Slight Adaptation of the NCTSN Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit, Version 2.0	18	11/14/17	13 7	Community DCYF-asst.
			1/30/18	14 10	Community DCYF-asst.
			4/18/18	19 2 3	Community DCYF-FSU DOA
Other In-Service- A Brief Introduction to Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)	This training will provide an overview of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Included in this overview will be a brief review of the theoretical underpinnings of DBT, DBT methodology and the skills taught in DBT, and an exploration of the efficacy that DBT has within adolescent populations.	1	10/10/17	7	DCYF RITS (Clinic)
Other In-Service- Assessing Suicide Risk in Adolescents	This training will review the steps to assessing suicide risk in adolescents who are being held in a correctional facility. Mental status evaluations will be reviewed and the presenter will present on a number of warning signs to be aware of.	1	8/8/17	14	DCYF RITS (Clinic)

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Other In-Service- Commercial Sexual Exploitation Advanced Training	<p>DYCF Special Projects Unit hosted a Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) and Children Absent from Care (CFAC) Advanced Training. Several speakers from DCYF, Attorney General's Office, US Attorney's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, State Police, Providence Police, Day One, St Mary's, Gateway and Hasbro Hospital presented. The primary audience for the workshop were CPS workers, supervisors and administrators. Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSEC Victim Presentation, Rhode Island General Law 11-67 (Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude), Federal Law H.R. 4980: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, Mandatory Federal reporting requirements (NCIC & NCMEC), Rhode Island Safe Harbor Act, DCYF Policies (CAFC & CSEC), Victim Centered Approach, Amber Alert System, Multi-disciplinary Teams, Special Projects Unit (CAFC, Kinship Locator and CSEC), CAFC/CSEC Face Sheet, Victim screening questions, CPS worker responsibilities & Requirements and CSEC Case Studies 	3	12/12/17	9	DCYF CPS, FSU, JCS
Other In-Service- Ensuring Educational Stability-Every Student Succeeds Act	<p>This training explores the importance of ensuring educational stability for foster youth in keeping with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Participants will receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an overview of key educational laws - the rational of ESSA & school stability - an explanation of ESSA responsibilities for DCYF, RIDE & LEAs direction as to expectations for new practice as it compares to current practice 	2	10/10/17	24	DCYF- Open to All Staff
			10/11/17	13	
			10/13/17	17	
			10/16/17	35	
			10/23/17	55	
			10/24/17	28	
			10/25/17	26	
Other In-Service- Family Search and Engagement	<p>This one-day training session examines a variety of creative family finding strategies to uncover and explore members of the youth's natural network of relationships. The process supports early and ongoing identification of family, kin and important</p>	6.5	2/20/18	10 7	Community DCYF-asst.

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
	adults who can offer a range of support and connection. The presentation focuses on the skills and preparation necessary to engage family and help youth establish or re-establish safe relationships, recognizing that permanent family connections are often closer than we realize!		2/21/17	9 13	Community DCYF-asst.
Other In-Service- Structured Assessment of Violence Risk for Youth (SAVRY) Booster Training	This is a booster training on completion of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY). Attendees will complete a practice case on the SAVRY and get experience with conducting a SAVRY reassessment. The training also will cover a review of how to administer the SAVRY and the protocol about how to use the SAVRY in case decisions, including making disposition recommendations and selecting services.	3	10/06/17	23	DCYF JCS
Other In-Service- Youth Mental Health First Aid	<p>The course teaches participants the risk factors and warning signs of a variety of mental health challenges common among adolescents, including anxiety, depression, psychosis, eating disorders, AD/HD, disruptive behavior disorders, and substance use disorder. Participants do not learn to diagnose, nor how to provide any therapy or counseling – rather, participants learn to support a youth developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in an emotional crisis by applying a core five-step action plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess for risk of suicide or harm 2. Listen nonjudgmentally 3. Give reassurance and information 4. Encourage appropriate professional help 5. Encourage self-help and other support strategies <p>The Youth Mental Health First Aid USA curriculum is primarily focused on information participants can use to help adolescents and transition-age youth, ages 12-18</p>	8	04/26/18	5 10	Community DCYF JCS
			05/15/18	15	CPS
			06/06/18	10 3	Community DCYF-asst.
Community- Foundational Visitation: Understanding Family Centered	The training frames the expectation of visitation practice at DCYF from both theoretical and practical perspectives. This training provides an opportunity to take visitation from a one dimensional task	3	8/07/17	14	Community

Workshop Title	Overall Description/Learning Objective	Hrs.	Date(s)	#	Participants
Visitation Practices	perspective and redefine it as one of the core practices guiding permanency planning and child welfare practice. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss and apply related materials to visitation scenarios.				
System of Care-Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Training	CANS is a 5-hour training in comprehensive assessment of psychological and social factors for use in treatment planning training. Domains assessed include general symptomology, risk behaviors, developmental functioning, personal/interpersonal functioning, and family functioning. The CANS is intended to support case planning and evaluation of service systems. Target Population: Children and adolescents with mental, emotional, or behavioral problems. The intended Users: Child and adolescent mental health service providers	5	7/20/17	19	Community
			9/21/17	101	Community DCYF FSU
			10/19/17	211	Community DCYF-FSU
			01/01/18	162	Community DCYF-FSU, JCS
			02/15/18	8	Community

Goal 4: The Department will be in full compliance with the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 by October 2016 as outlined in the work plan in the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 section of this document.

- **DCYF will finalize MOU's Equifax, Experian and TransUnion within the timeframes outlined in the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 section of this document.**

FFY 2016: DCYF has made some strides in providing credit checks for youth in foster care that are 14 or older. DCYF's IT Department has communicated with the three credit bureaus and has developed the internal structure necessary to implement a batch reporting process with the three Credit Reporting Agencies (CRAs). The DCYF IT and Legal Departments have reviewed the three credit bureaus membership application agreements and identified potential conflicts and concerns.

The interface between our IT system and each credit bureau cannot move forward until we have a signed agreement with each CRA. We have begun this process with Transunion and sent them documents in mid-May 2016 for their review and approval. As soon as we get these back, we will finalize on our end and begin an interface and batch testing with Transunion. At that time, we will also move forward with finalizing agreements with Experian and Equifax.

Due to this, we have adjusted the time frame from our last APSR submission. The revised time frame is in Table 8.

FFY 2017: This item in Goal 4 is complete. As of April 3, 2017 the Department has signed agreements with all three CRA's.

As of May 12, 2017, the Department has run tests with both Transunion and Equifax. The Department has not completed the testing process with Experian but this should be accomplished within the next two weeks.

- **Implement training for staff on Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 and how to conduct credit checks for youth in their caseloads.**

FFY 2016: The newly created DCYF Training and Staff Development Unit is aware of the need for this training and the Youth Development Unit will provide guidance on content. However, we first need to finalize how the process will work internally in terms of reviewing results from CRAs and addressing any identified credit challenges for youth.

FFY 2017: In February of 2017, a Draft Agency Protocol for Credit Check Roles and Responsibilities was developed and will be finalized once the credit check window in RICHIST is complete.

Preliminary discussions with workers have been held with DCYF staff during the information sessions the Department held with internal staff on effective transition planning for older youth as it relates to Title IV-E on April 26th and 28th, 2017 and on June 3rd, 2nd and 5th, 2017. These information sessions were held in the Department's various regions and the areas covered address permanency and transition planning issues which included credit checks for youth ages 14+.

FFY 2018: The YDES staff continue to provide training on youth development and transition planning, including the importance of good credit and annual credit checks, to new staff in the New Worker Training programs, the most recent conducted on 6/4/18. Additionally, if the VEC passes and then is implemented, this will include specialized training for the YDES staff, including topics such as motivational interviewing, adolescent brain development, social capital development, transition planning and asset building. Eventually we see this being offered to a wider array of DCYF staff and partners.

Goal 5: The Department will engage youth and work with youth as partners in decision making.

- **The Department will continue to utilize and promote "The Voice" as the youth advocacy and leadership board for the Department.**

FFY 2016: John Scott, DCYF's Community Liaison, and now Sarah Smith, the Youth Coordinator for the Healthy Transitions Grant, meet monthly with "The Voice" and participates in their monthly meetings. This provides an opportunity for ongoing dialogue and allows John and Sarah to bring information back to the Department about youth's experiences in care. In addition to The Voice, Sarah Smith works closely with other state youth advocates to introduce the "Now is the Time" Healthy Transitions (HT): Improving Life Trajectories for Youth and Young Adults with, or at Risk for, Serious Mental Health Conditions" Grant and to discuss youth involvement in the development of a social marketing campaign for the initiative. DCYF staff involved with our Diligent Recruitment Grant (Max Fetissenko) also meet The Voice to inform them about his work and members have been incorporated into workgroups and other related discussions.

Mike Burk, Administrator for Youth Development and Educational Support Services, John Scott and other staff regularly consult with members of the Voice on a variety of topics and issues.

Members of the Voice participated in the following activities:

- NE Youth Coalition of the New England Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors Association; in-person meetings 3 times per year; monthly conference calls; monthly committee conference calls; presentation to Commissioners and Directors of New England States; Committees are Normalcy and Permanency*, Education, NEYC Growth and Development
- Created and distributed holiday cookie mixes to foster families during our Holiday Gifts Distribution
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative: Youth Leadership Institute

- Serve as youth voice for the Now is the Time Healthy Transitions Grant and with work on the development of the social marketing campaign for the Healthy Transition Project.
- Foster Youth Shadow Day at the US Capitol (One member shadowed Rep. Langevin for the Day.)
- Spoke at the Annual Foster Forward Gala
- Spoke at the DCYF Provider Summit
- Participated on a panel for several trauma-informed trainings for providers
- Created centerpieces for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Hosted a refreshment table and volunteered at the Foster Forward Haunted House
- Volunteered at the Foster Parent Appreciation Event
- Provided feedback for a Yale University survey tool on permanency and youth voice in case planning
- Participated in Yale University focus groups on permanency and youth voice in case planning
- One member has been trained as a Youth Advisor for NYTD national site visits
- Interviewed as part of PBS foster parent recruitment video
- Presented on Normalcy during the “Transforming the Care of Children and Youth in RI” conference
- Participated on a panel during the Parent Support Network annual conference
- Participated in workgroup providing feedback for Prudent Parent Standard training curriculum

FY 2017: John Scott, DCYF’s Community Liaison, meets monthly with “The Voice” and participates in their monthly meetings. This provides an opportunity for ongoing dialogue and allows John to bring information back to the Department about youth’s experiences in care. DCYF staff involved with our Diligent Recruitment Grant (Max Fetissenko) also meet The Voice to inform them about his work and members have been incorporated into workgroups and other related discussions. On Monday March 13, 2017 Trista Piccola, DCYF Director met with the Voice soon after her appointment to introduce herself and answer some questions for Voice Members. Mike Burk, Administrator, John Scott, Community Liaison and other staff regularly consult with members of the Voice on a variety of topics and issues.

Members of the Voice participated in the following activities:

- NE Youth Coalition of the New England Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors Association; in-person meetings 3 times per year; monthly conference calls; monthly committee conference calls; Committees are Normalcy*, Foster Parent Recruitment, and Education
- Presented at the Child Welfare League of America conference as part of NEYC
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative: Youth Leadership Institute
- Hosted annual BBQ for all youth in care
- Spoke at the Annual Foster Forward Gala
- Spoke with Casey Family Program members at their local event
- Participated on a panel for a Junior League of RI hosted event on raising community awareness for foster care
- Participated on a youth panel for the RI Family Court Conference
- Spoke to Junior League Members regarding experiences in foster care
- Hosted a refreshment table and volunteered at the Foster Forward Haunted House
- Trained as trainers on the Prudent Parent Standard training curriculum
- Met with folks from DCYF to provide feedback and creative ideas on their official foster parent recruitment campaign.
- Met with a few family court members to provide consultation for new pilot program at the court
- Participated in focus groups regarding the extension of foster care to age 21

- Met with DCYF regarding foster care to 21
- Helped Foster Forward staff at the First Annual Walk to Raise Awareness
- Regularly participated in meetings of the RI Coalition for Children and Families regarding voluntary extension of foster care to age 21
- Contributed to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Public Forum
- Participated on a panel for a Child & Family foster care symposium
- Volunteered at the annual Holiday Gift event
- Testified before the Senate and House Finance Committees on the Young Adult Voluntary Extension of Care Act
- Participated on a youth panel at a Family Court Training on transition planning and prudent parenting standards
- Voice members continuously support and attend door-openers, focus groups, and workshop opportunities provided by CYS.
- The Normalcy and Permanency committee and the coalition have created a regional definition of normalcy and “The Normalcy and Permanency Bill of Rights” which has been approved by NEACWCD.

FFY2018:

Members of the Voice participated in the following activities:

- NE Youth Coalition of the New England Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors Association; in-person meetings 2 times per year; monthly conference calls; monthly committee conference calls; Committees are Normalcy*, Foster Parent Recruitment, and Education
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative: Youth Leadership Institute
- Spoke at the Annual Foster Forward Gala
- Spoke to Junior League Members regarding experiences in foster care
- Met with DCYF regarding extension of foster care to 21
- Volunteered at the annual Holiday Gift event
- Testified before the Senate Finance Committees on the Young Adult Voluntary Extension of Care Act
- Participated in the Governor’s Press Conference on care to 21
- Distributed fliers and roses to legislative officials at the Statehouse regarding the importance of investing in youth in care and foster care to 21
- Hosted Prom Dress Collection & Distribution
- Hosted a recruitment game night
- Coordinated with DCYF to have Director Piccola sign the Normalcy Bill of Rights for youth in care in RI
- Participated in Bi-partisan small committee meetings on Extension of Care at the Statehouse
- Participated in a 2-day REEI meeting with DCYF and foster parent recruiters from across the state to come up with a new foster parent recruitment strategy
- Spoke on a panel at DCYF Foster Parent Recruitment Weekend
- Voice members continuously support and attend door-openers, focus groups, and workshop opportunities provided by CYS.

Goal 6: Consultation and collaboration with Indian Tribes

- **The Department will continue to build upon the active and positive relationship with the Child Welfare representative of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, which is Rhode Island’s only federally recognized tribe.**

FFY 2016: The overall relationship with the Narragansett Tribe has improved significantly over the past year. Several meetings have been held with Tribal leaders related to child welfare issues and Mike Burk, Administrator for Youth Development and Educational Support Services has been involved in most meetings. Dialogue includes discussion around Chafee funded program areas and how we can ensure the needs of the Narragansett Tribe are met. Plans are now being finalized to begin a series of trainings to be conducted by the Narragansett Tribe regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act and what that means to the Narragansett Tribe. The first such training will be conducted in DCYF Region 3 where the Tribal Reservation is located and the training will be held in the Tribal Community Center.

FFY 2017: Mike Burk continues to have a more active role in engaging with the Narragansett Tribe and has been involved in several discussions with them regarding agency wide collaboration in general, as well issues related specifically to youth development services and supports. Mike works closely with the DCYF Tribal Liaison, to ensure effective communication and coordination with the Tribe on programs under his purview. The Workforce Development Division worked with the Narragansett Tribe and held an ICWA training in the Fall of 2016. Mike participated in this training.

FFY 2018: DCYF's Tribal Liaison communicates regularly to the Narragansett Tribe about a variety of child welfare, including issues related to CFCIP and ETV programs. All CFCIP services are available to Indian youth who meet the state's defined population for Chafee, as well as for YESS Aftercare Services which are funded solely through state dollars. The Narragansett Tribe has not raised concerns about accessing CFCIP or ETV services. The Narragansett Tribe have indicated on numerous occasions that they do not wish to administer or supervise the CFCIP or the ETV program.

Commented [NJ(3)]: Updated

Goal 7: The Department will improve upon assisting youth in developing personalized transition plans for youth in out of home care.

- **Transition planning will begin 6 months after a youth turns 16 years of age and update every 6 months. A required discharge plan must be in place 90 days prior to being discharged from care. 35% of all youth in out of home care will have effective transition planning in place by October 2015; 60 % by October 2016; 90% by October 2017; Full compliance by 2019.**

FFY 2016: The Department currently does not have a mechanism to easily quantify this measure. We are examining all of our data measurement needs and will work to address this need. Additionally, the Department is exploring the recent intent of ACF to provide States with resources to improve data management systems by moving from a SACWIS model to a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) model as described in the recent ACF Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Our initial review suggests that, should this rule go into effect, it will provide us with the opportunity to transform our data management system from one that is primarily case management focused to one that provides more robust opportunities for data collection and analysis while still ensuring quality case management support. If we determine that undertaking this project is feasible, we will incorporate mechanisms to effectively track transition planning.

However, we are actively addressing how to improve our success in this area through an ongoing policy team meeting that includes all direct service areas within the agency in the dialogue.

FFY 2017: The Department held information sessions with internal staff on effective transition planning for older youth as it relates to Title IV-E on April 26th and 28th, 2017 and on June 3rd, 2nd and 5th, 2017. These information sessions were held in the Departments various regions and the areas covered addresses permanency and transition planning issues required by public laws.

In February of 2017, the Department began a transition pilot project within one of the Department's regions. On February 7, 2017 there were 137 youth ages 14-20 open to the region. The Department assigned John Scott, Community Liaison and member of the Youth Development and Education Supports team to locate two days a week in the region to help identify where barriers may exist to effective transition and discharge planning within the region and to actively assist in removing them; to help identify where gaps in services may exist within the region and to actively assist in filling them; outreach to workers to participate in their face to face visits to observe how ongoing transition planning is being discussed with youth 14 years old and older, to be used as a resource for workers as transition plans are developed for family court 6 months prior to youth turning 18 years old and to be an overall resource to workers for transition services and older youth issues for those 137 youth.

FY 2018: The Youth Development Support Services staff continue to provide training regarding youth development, education and transitional services to staff through the Core Trainings coordinated by the Staff Development Unit and identified in the Training Chart above. We also provide consultation directly to staff on youth development and transition issues as the need is identified. With the implementation of the Voluntary Extension of Care, we anticipate an increased focus on this work.

Commented [NJ(4)]: Updated

GOAL 8: Ensure the safety and support of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and to prevent further exploitation by utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance response, identification, awareness, education, restoration and recovery. Develop and implement a comprehensive State-wide program to strengthen the child welfare response to victims of trafficking. This goal has been revised from the original goal included in the 2015-19 CFSP in order to reflect our refinement of our efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

FFY 2017: Current Activities:

- Completed Review existing policies, protocols and legislation used in investigations, prosecutions and victim advocacy;
- Participating in existing task forces and meetings with partners and stakeholders related to addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;
- Updated DCYF Policy 700.0135 (formerly Runaway policy, now to be called Children Absent from Care/CSEC Policy);
- Drafted Safe Harbor legislation for CSEC victims; Submitted to the Rhode Island State Legislature for approval
- Completed standardized policies/procedures related to monitoring compliance regarding the reporting of missing children to law enforcement within 24 hours for entry into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) as required by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act;
- Completed standardized policies/procedures related to reporting the total number of children and youth who are CSEC victims to Health and Human Services;
- Completed a comprehensive, evidence based CSEC data collection method;
- Completed and implemented a standardized system-wide assessment tool to identify victims and children at risk of sexual exploitation;
- Improving victim treatment, services and placement;
- Providing professional training, outreach and public awareness; Provided mandatory CSEC awareness training to all DCYF employees, Provided Advanced CSEC training to CPS workers

(CPIs and Intake workers). “Train the Trainer” CSEC instruction scheduled for August 2016. Working in collaboration with Day One to provide CSEC awareness training to law enforcement, courts, providers, hospitals and the general public.

- Developing a DCYF sponsored informational website and 24-hour contact telephone number to identify/locate/assist potential CSEC victims.
- In the process of hiring a CSEC Coordinator
- Submitting grant proposal for \$1.25 million to self-sustain the CSEC program and computer system upgrades in RICHIST for (5) years. “Grants to Address Trafficking within the Child Welfare Population - HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF-CA-1179”

FFY 2018: CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

- Ongoing participation in existing task forces and meetings with partners and stakeholders related to addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;
- Updated DCYF Policy 700.0135 (formerly Runaway policy, now to be called Children Absent from Care/CSEC Policy);
- Drafted Safe Harbor legislation for CSEC victims; Submitted to the Rhode Island State Legislature for approval
- Completed standardized policies/procedures related to monitoring compliance regarding the reporting of missing children to law enforcement within 24 hours for entry into the FBI’s National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) as required by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act;
- Completed standardized policies/procedures related to reporting the total number of children and youth who are CSEC victims to Health and Human Services;
- Completed a comprehensive, evidence based CSEC data collection method;
- Completed and implemented a standardized system-wide assessment tool to identify victims and children at risk of sexual exploitation;
- Ongoing improvements to victim treatment, services and placements;
- Providing ongoing professional training, outreach and public awareness; mandatory CSEC awareness training to all DCYF employees, Advanced CSEC training to CPS workers (CPIs and Intake workers).
- Continuous collaboration with Day One to provide CSEC awareness training to law enforcement, courts, providers, hospitals and the general public.
- Developing a DCYF sponsored informational website and 24-hour contact telephone number to identify/locate/assist potential CSEC victims.
- Hired a Human Trafficking Outreach Specialist through a VOCA Grant.

TABLE 6. CFCIP FFY 2017 BUDGET

FFY 2017 Allocation		\$554,875
Revenue/Expenditure Description		Amount
Consolidated Youth Services		\$554,875
IL Coordinator/Youth Development Support		

Audit		\$362
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TABLE 7. CFCIP 2016 ALLOCATION	
FFY2016 Allocation	\$586,562
Revenue/Expenditure Description	Amount
Consolidated Youth Services Program	\$586,562
IL Coordinator/Youth Development Support	
Audit	\$ 328

It should be noted that the total annualized budget for the Consolidated Youth Services Program for FY 2017 is \$2,294,284 with \$554,875 of this funded through CFCIP funds and \$1,739,409 of this funded through State General Revenue funds which is dedicated to YESS Aftercare Services. The additional CFCIP funding in each program year is used to support salaries and administrative costs associated with staff working to provide continued youth development support.

Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011

This act requires that each child in foster care under the responsibility of the state who has attained 14 years of age receives without cost a copy of any consumer report (as defined in Section 603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act) pertaining to the child each year until the child is discharged from care and receives assistance (including, when feasible, from any court-appointed advocate for the child) in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report.

DCYF has made some strides in providing credit checks for youth in foster care that are 14 or older. As of April 3, 2017 the Department has signed agreements with all three CRA's. As of May 12, 2017 the Department has run test batches with both Transunion and Equifax. The Department has not completed the testing process with Experian.

In February of 2017, a Draft Agency Protocol for Credit Check Roles and Responsibilities was developed and will be finalized once the credit check window in RICHIST is complete. Preliminary discussions with workers have been held with DCYF staff during the information sessions the Department held with internal staff on effective transition planning for older youth as it relates to Tile IV-E on April 26th and 28th, 2017 and on June 3rd, 2nd and 5th, 2017. These information sessions were held in the Departments various regions and the areas covered addresses permanency and transition planning issues which included credit checks for youth ages 14+.

The Department launched the annual credit checks in July 2017. An unduplicated count of youth included in the 980 credit report inquiries performed between 7/21/2017 and 3/26/2018. Of these 980 youth, 926 (94.5%) resulted in "no record found" from each credit bureau. Of these 980 youth, 54 youth (5.5%) were identified as having issues that needed to be resolved by at least one Credit Reporting Agency (CRA), of which 37 (3.8%) were corrected simply by correcting social security numbers and/or addresses. This leaves 17 (1.7%) that had more substantive issues identified by at least one CRA which we are working to resolve.

In order to run these credit checks, the Department used a 256-bit encrypted secure thumb drive. This drive was inadvertently thrown out in April 2018. After confirming that it was not recoverable, notifications were made to the RI Division of Information Technology (DoIT), the RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the RI Attorney General, the US Social Security Administration, and each of the three credit reporting agencies. Due to the encryption level of the device, it was not considered a breach but, out of an abundance of caution, the Department chose to notify all of the individuals whose information was contained on the thumb drive were notified. Since that time, DoIT determined that they wanted additional levels of protection and therefore we have been unable to run additional checks for April, May and June 2018. We are hopeful that we will have a solution soon and will run those checks when the solution is implemented.

Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program

Rhode Island's commitment to ensuring that foster care and former foster care youth have access to postsecondary educational opportunities continues to grow and expand while at the same time we are addressing some of our shortfalls. ETV funding can be used for any postsecondary educational and training program that is approved by the US Department of Education for Title IV student assistance programs with a cap of \$5,000 per student per academic year. Our Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 allocation was \$181,235 (FFY) 2017 allocation was \$181,235 which reflects level funding.

Our DCYF Higher Education Grant Program funding, an annual allocation of \$200,000, can be used only for full-time students attending one of Rhode Island's three public higher education institutions – the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC) and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). There is no per student cap on these state funds. In FFY 2018, seventeen (17) students received state funds totaling \$78,844.00.

Youth and young adults interested in receiving postsecondary educational funds must complete their FAFSA and a DCYF Postsecondary Education Tuition Assistance Program application. The eligibility criteria for each of the subprograms (DCYF Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant and ETV voucher) are based on state and federal laws and regulations and are clearly articulated in the application. Youth who have been placed in subsidized guardianships or adopted on or after their 16th birthday is eligible for ETV funding. The Department treats all funds under this program as the funding of last resort after all other non-loan funding sources (e.g., Pell Grants, scholarships) are considered and uses funds only to cover further unmet need to the extent possible based on available funds and the total number of youth participating.

The Department, continues to utilize the Office of Post-Secondary Education's Division of Higher Education Assistance's (OPSE-DHEA), web-based integrated DCYF Post-Secondary Education Tuition Assistance Program (PETAP) Application for the 2017-2018 academic year. This system allows for retrieval of cost of attendance and financial aid package information from the schools the students are attending so that we can have a true sense of the student's unmet need. It also allows award payments to be made directly by OPSE, tracks students who drop out or reduce credit hours below full or part time and provides a direct mechanism for refunding funds back for students who do not complete the academic semester based on each school's refund policy.

The 2017-2018 Academic Year was our sixth full year of using this system and we continue to work to find a level of comfort in balancing the funds committed at the start of the year with the attrition rates of students by the conclusion of the year. For the past four years, DCYF provided each student with funds to cover 80% of their unmet need unless they were eligible for the ETV funds only and hit their \$5,000 annual federally mandated cap. For the 2017-2018, academic year, 153 youth applied for funding

and, of those applicants, 47 youth attended school and received funding. This assistance totaled \$253,624 from all funds [ETV - \$173,780.00; DCYF Higher Education Funds - \$79,844.00]. ETV awards ranged from \$1,000 - \$5,000.00 and DCYF Higher Education Awards ranged from \$1,650 - \$11,380. We anticipate our percentage for the 2018-2019, academic year to be between 60%-80% of unmet need.

The following chart shows the actual participation rate for the 2017-2018 Academic Year.

TABLE 8. DCYF POST-SECONDARY GRANT FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018			
Postsecondary School Attended	Students Receiving State-funded DCYF Higher Education Grant Funds and Federal-funded Education and Training Voucher Grant Funds	Students Receiving Federally-funded Education and Training Voucher Grant Funds Only	Total Number of Student Participants
The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI – RI)	6	9	15
Johnson and Wales University (RI)	0	4	4
Mount Ida	0	1	1
New England Institute of Technology	0	1	1
Rhode Island College (RI)	6	6	12
Regis College	0	1	1
Rowan University	0	1	1
Toni & Guy Hairdressing Academy	0	1	1
University of Rhode Island (RI)	5	5	10
Total Student Participants	24	26	50

2015-2019 OBJECTIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Identify a mechanism and/or formula to institute a per student per year maximum award amount in order to meet the needs of the greatest number of youth with the available funding.

The Department will continue to monitor this issue and determine if such a cap is necessary.

FY 2017: Ongoing

- Continue to increase outreach to youth in postsecondary programs who have aged out of care to ensure that they can continue receiving financial supports for their educational program.

There is much crossover between youth involved in our YESS Aftercare Services and youth attending post-secondary educational institutions. YESS case managers are used often to ensure outreach to young adults. As well, with our web-based application system, we have current email addresses on all youth attending school and use that to communicate with them. Additionally, our CYS program provides updates via their Facebook page.

In addition, the OPSE-DHEA sends out e-mail blasts to all past DCYF Post-Secondary applications reminding them to submit their DCYF applications. DCYF also posts information regarding eligibility and how to apply for Higher Education funds on the state website and Facebook accounts.

Additionally, the DCYF Educational Services Coordinator identified and sent e-mails to social workers with the names of students still in foster care and eligible for the Post-Secondary Tuition Assistance program. The DCYF Educational Services Coordinator will monitor these students and remind social workers to have the student submit their DCYF Post-Secondary application.

Information is also provided to Regional Directors, the RITS Deputy Superintendent, and the Administrator of Juvenile Probation. Announcements and information are also shared during key statewide education meetings such as the RI Transition Council and RI Special Education Advisory Council (RISEAC).

DCYF is in the process of solidifying a new MOU with OPSE-DHEA. As part of this MOU, DCYF is proposing to streamline the application and eligibility determination which will allow DCYF to create an account for each eligible student. OPSE-DHEA will compare this data to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicants and will indicate any DCYF eligible youth who have complete their FAFSA as active participants for the academic year. Students will continue to be able to view their application and award status, including award amounts when finalized and payments made to their schools.

- **The Department will continue its work on developing and implementing stronger support systems at the public and private post-secondary schools and will develop as part of our Youth Development and Educational Supports training program through the CWI components related to enhancing youth success in the post-secondary arena.**

FY 2017: In 2014, DCYF partnered with Rhode Island College's (RIC) Learning for Life Program. Learning for Life provides supports for students while attending RIC to help them successfully transition to college. Since then, every young adult who applied for the DCYF Post-Secondary Tuition Assistance Program and identified RIC as their school choice, received an email from the DCYF Educational Services Coordinator explaining the benefits of the Learning for Life Program. In 2015, the DCYF Educational Services Coordinator joined and continues to serve on the Learning for Life Program Board.

DCYF has also partnered with the Community College of Rhode Island - Office of Opportunity and Outreach and Graduate Rhode Island.

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) – Office of Opportunity and Outreach oversees several programs within the community college that assist Rhode Islanders in overcoming barriers to starting and completing college. Some of the programs that DCYF has begun to partner with are:

- Connect to College (C2C) program which aims to increase college readiness for incoming students and create a community of scholars working together towards degree completion. Connect to College provides academic advising, financial coaching, and career assessments that link directly to college majors and programming, which will aid students in their goal of college graduation.

- The Rhode Island Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), a federally-funded TRIO Program, assists individuals with applying for financial aid (FAFSA) and completing college admissions applications. The EOC office also provides an array of other services such as: career counseling, GED and English as a Second Language classes referrals, assistance with foreign education evaluations, financial literacy and general educational information dissemination. The EOC Office assists students in gaining access to any college that they are interested in attending, not just CCRI.
- Preparing for College is a collaboration between the CCRI and the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner which targets middle school students and high school students with the goal of informing them about the benefits of planning for their future – either college or career

Graduate Rhode Island is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist adults with the supports and resources that will help them get back into and through college. Graduate RI provides one-on-one advising, creates educational plans, evaluates transcripts, assists in financial aid and planning. They also ensure that students are connected to the right supports while attending college and will follow them until they graduate.

- **Continue to increase the role of the DCYF Higher Education Advisory Board in identifying and leveraging additional resources for youth (Ongoing: 2015-2019)**

The Department views the expansion of this role as critical to our ability to outreach more effectively to youth to ensure that they are able to access necessary and appropriate supports while attending college.

Although the Higher Education Advisory Board has not yet convened, OPSE-DHEA has committed to working with DCYF to identify and leverage resources for youth in care.

- **Identify and collaborate with existing community organizations to help educate youth on high school and college expectations.**

DCYF and OPSE-DHEA are also proposing to expand services to include career exploration, college planning and college prep workshops. Career Exploration and College planning will be primary done through OPSE-DHEA WaytogoRI portal. WaytogoRI has been adopted by many Rhode Island School Districts which assists in the development and guidance of Individual Learning Planning for middle and high school students.

OPSE-DHEA will also establish DCYF as an entity which will allow DCYF staff to access students' information and provide a more comprehensive tool to encourage and monitor student goals, assist with career planning, college searches and applications.

OPSE-DHEA and DCYF will collaborate in developing a series of annual workshops/trainings in regard to college planning, application processes, financial aid opportunities (including scholarships) and FAFSA completion.

FFY 2017:

Financial and Statistical Information Reporting

FFY Year 2017: ETV - Award \$181,820; Expended \$181,820

TABLE 9. NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF ETV FUNDS

	Fiscal Year	# of Recipients
Initial Voucher	2013	31
Total Participants	2013	82
Initial Voucher	2014	29
Total Participants	2014	51
Initial Voucher	2015	29
Total Participants	2015	48
Initial Voucher	2016	44
Total Participants	2016	90
Initial Voucher	2017	40
Total Participants	2017	69
Initial Voucher	2018	23
Total Participants	2018	47

Commented [NJ(5)]: Corrected typo. Previous version had incorrect #

Fund Administration

DCYF's application process is now all web-based with OPSE-DHEA and award determinations based on the youth's unmet need after considering the cost of attendance for that youth and other financial aid awarded. We continue to be able to fund at an award percentage of 80% of the student's unmet need unless they are limited to the federal ETV cap of \$5,000.

The Educational Services Coordinator verifies applicant eligibility by examining the youth's record in our RICHIST system, which includes ensuring they meet citizenship/immigration status requirements to receive ETV funds.

Updates to Targeted Plans within the 2015-2019 CFSP

Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan

Progress on DCYF's Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan is described under Goal II of the Update on Progress to Improve Outcomes.

Health Care Oversight and Coordination

DCYF hired a part time psychiatrist, who consults on individual cases, including when concerns are raised about the appropriateness of the child's psychotropic medication prescription. DCYF is still working to

establish capacity within the agency for collecting data and monitoring psychotropic medication use on a systemic level. There are no changes to the Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan.

The Department intends to meet the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFSA) related to ensuring that children in foster care are not inappropriately diagnosed with certain conditions and placed in settings that are not foster family homes. DCYF expects to fully meet this requirement by the end of CY 2018 by modifying the existing Level of Need (LON) Assessment to include a review of the child's medical needs, something not currently assessed by the existing tool.

DCYF's LON uses portions of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), a widely used instrument that has demonstrated reliability and validity. The LON assesses a child's day-to-day functioning across different life areas, including behavioral health needs, developmental disabilities needs and behavioral health risk factors. Different levels of care are generated using an algorithm that scores a child's risk areas and behavioral health dimensions which are then compared to guidelines for determining the level of care a child needs and the services appropriate for each of the five levels.

Each LON is completed by the caseworker and undergoes several levels of review. The Community Services and Behavioral Health (CSBH) unit reviews each LON and conducts a clinical review of the supporting documentation in the placement referral packet and confirm the documents support the LON individual scores and overall tier score. If the documentation does not support the LON tier score the CSBH staff request additional documentation or clarification from the case worker. After reviewing and confirming the information, the CSBH staff make a recommendation for level of care.

The Department is in the process of revising its *Placement Referral Process* Operating Procedure, which outlines the steps DCYF staff must follow to initiate referrals for placement and the accompanying required documentation processes of such referrals. This includes a requirement that the LON be administered for each child being referred for placement.

Commented [NJ(6)]: Added language to address new Family First Requirements

Disaster Plan

The state was not affected by a disaster during this reporting period and there have been no changes to the Disaster Plan.

Training Plan

Updates to the Department's Training Plan can be found in attached documents.

Statistical and Supporting Information

Information on Child Protective Service Workforce

This information is included in the Department's CAPTA plan.

Juvenile Justice Transfers

This information is included in the Department's CAPTA plan.

Child Maltreatment Deaths

The Department uses information from its Child Protection Services (CPS) Investigation Division, Departmental investigations, Medical Examiner's Office, law enforcement agencies, hospitals and other medical care providers as appropriate, as well as the Child Advocate's Office and child death review forums. Information from these entities is utilized by DCYF in reviewing child fatalities.

Inter-Country Adoptions

In FY 2016, there were no children that entered state custody due to disruption or dissolution of an inter-country adoption.

Financial Information

FFY 2015 State Expenditures as Compared to FY 1992 Baseline

The Department of Children, Youth and Families continues to demonstrate a strong maintenance of effort in its expenditures for child and family services. In FFY 1992, as the base year, the DCYF allocated approximately \$3.4-million on community-based programs to assist families who were at risk of becoming involved with the Department. In fiscal year 2015, the Department minimally allocated \$3.5 million in general revenue funds for ongoing family support and preservation services. These funds support services such as the Family Care Community Partnerships, family stabilization services, and early intervention-type programming which assists vulnerable families with children in age ranges from birth to three and older. These community-based services also provide necessary care and intervention for families whose children are experiencing behavioral challenges and may be at risk for out-of-home placement.

Allocation of Funds

In this APSR, the Department is requesting an allocation of \$894,867 in Title IV-B, part 1 funds, and an allocation of \$1,001,178 in Title IV-B, part 2 funds. Additionally, the Department requests \$63,088 for ongoing efforts to improve performance in monthly caseworker visits; as well as an allocation of \$124,887 in CAPTA funds. The Department is also requesting \$550,000 in funds through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, and \$199,358 in Chafee Education and Training Vouchers. These funds will continue to support the programs that have been identified or established in the Child and Family Service Planning efforts and through the planning for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

Commented [NJ(7)]: updated

Title IV-B, Subpart 1:

The Department of Children, Youth and Families anticipates receiving \$894,867 in FFY 19 in its Title IV-B, Part 1 allocation. Funds in this allocation are used to support crisis intervention and programming aimed at providing additional support to keep families from coming into care; foster parent support; and adoption promotion and support. These service needs have continued to be identified through the planning process for the Child and Family Service Plan. The Department will use 10% in Administrative costs.

Title IV-B, Subpart 2:

The Department anticipates receiving an allocation of \$1,001,178 in Title IV-B, Part 2 funds for FFY 19. These funds will continue to support the Department's initiatives in compliance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act, focusing on therapeutic visitation; family advocacy/support program initiatives; and adoption promotion and support, as described previously under Program and Service Development. Funding for family support services will be allocated 20% of the appropriation; family preservation services will be allocated 27%; time-limited reunification services will receive 20%; and, adoption promotion and support programs will receive 27% of IV-B, Part 2 funding. The Department will use 4.8% in Administrative costs.

Commented [NJ(8)]: Updated

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Appropriation

The Department anticipates receiving \$124,887 in FFY 19. These funds continue support for the Citizen Review Panel, and are being used in the maintenance of the Early Intervention service referral process through the Child Protective Services Intake Unit. The Department has a contract with an Early Intervention Program to provide a registered nurse working as a co-location liaison with the Child Protective Services (CPS) investigators and intake staff. The nurse is familiar with the early intervention services network and is assisting DCYF in determining the appropriate referrals to be made to the Early Intervention providers, or whether referrals of children under the age of three should be made to other early child development and family support programs within the community. The Department also sees this position as a support for the Plans of Safe Care Notification tracking requirements.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Appropriation:

The Department anticipates an allocation of \$550,000 in the CFCIP allocation, and \$199,358 in Educational Training Vouchers (ETVs) in FFY 2019. These funds will continue to support strategies aimed at helping youth transitioning to self-sufficiency; receiving the education; training and services necessary to obtain employment; prepare for and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions; provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors; and continuing to provide additional appropriate support and services for youth leaving the child welfare system.

Commented [NJ(9)]: updated

Monthly Caseworker Visits Program Appropriation:

The Department anticipates an allocation of \$63,088 in the MCV funds for FFY 19. In 2018, the Department used Monthly Caseworker Visit funding to purchase broadband-enabled tablet laptop computers to support front line caseworkers. In 2019, the Department is planning on purchasing additional broadband-enabled tablet laptops to assist workers in the field. The laptops allow staff to complete face-to-face visits more efficiently and effectively by allowing them to work directly with their clients in the field. Information can be entered directly into our RICHIST system without the need to return to the office.

Other Expenditures

The Department voluntarily relinquished the 'Diligent Recruitment of Families for Children in the Foster Care System' (HHS-2013-ACF-ACYF-CO-0593) grant on September 30, 2017. The objective of this grant was to increase the number of resource families – including kinship, foster, concurrent and adoptive. The Department has improved these outcomes however there was not a clear alignment with the grant initiatives. After a site visit in May 2017 the Department decided to forgo the final year of the grant.

The Trauma Focused Care grant is a Cooperative Agreement with the Children's Bureau for \$2.5 million over five years (\$500,000 per year) to establish an integrated model of service delivery and workforce development that is infused with staff competence in adoption and trauma-informed practice. This effort is designed to address the needs of children and youth awaiting adoption, with a special focus on the appropriate use of psychotropic medications through the development of a universal trauma screening and assessment process. There will be training and support for the provider community to increase the number of behavioral health and child welfare providers trained in evidence-based trauma screening, assessment, and treatment models. There will also be training and support for families (birth and resource parents and kinship families) around management of trauma-related behaviors and accessing available trauma treatment and pre-and post-adoption support services. This initiative, known as Adopt Well-Being Rhode Island: System Transformation After Trauma help to strengthen the child

welfare system and provider community to enhance our collective ability to support adoptive families and address the needs of the children and caregivers more effectively to prevent children from requiring residential placement and re-entering the child welfare system. This grant is set to end on September 30, 2018.

In September 2017, the Department was awarded a \$415,000 grant from the W.K Kellogg Foundation to continue improvements in delivery of services and supports to young children in Rhode Island's child welfare system. This three-year project, titled "Rhode Island Getting to Kindergarten Initiative," was proposed to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation over the past six months as part of the Department's ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for children from birth to five-years-old who are involved in the child welfare system. Each year, approximately 1,300 children under the age of six become involved with DCYF and they face a variety of challenges that can have lifelong effects on their well-being and future educational success.

Rhode Island's Getting to Kindergarten Initiative will focus on ensuring that all young children in DCYF care have access to diligent developmental screening and services that will help support both children who face adversity in their early years and their families. Other goals of the project include supporting access to high quality child care resources for children in DCYF care and training to support all early childhood service providers and DCYF case workers who work with this population.

DCYF plans to utilize the grant resources to engage supports from all child-serving sectors including Early Intervention, Family Visiting Programs funded by the Department of Health, Child Outreach Screening funded by the Rhode Island Department of Education, Early Care and Education Programs, Head Start, the state's Pre-K services, and DCYF contracted programs.

The Department also received in FFY 2018 a first-time award from the Victims of Crime Act grant in the amount of \$274,000 for one year. This funding is being used to hire a Human Trafficking Coordinator, domestic violence liaisons in CPS, front line staff training and emergency gift cards for victims. DCYF is preparing the FFY 2019 application currently.

The Department has no payment limitations to report relating to IV-B, Part 1 funding for any services relating to child care, foster care maintenance, or adoption assistance in reference to FY 2005. The Department did not allocate IV-B, Part 1 funding for these services in FY 2005, and has not used IV-B, Part 1 funds for this purpose as these services are supported with general revenue. In FY 2005, the DCYF expended \$2,838,725 in general revenue on services associated with foster care maintenance, as defined in Section 475(4) of the Act. Rhode Island did not use any State funds spent on foster care maintenance as match for IV-B, Part 1 in FY 2005.

CFS 101, Part III Funding Difference in Estimated to Actual Expenditures

The Department met the required 20% minimum expenditures for each of the Title IV-B Subpart II categories.

Commented [NJ(10)]: deleted unnecessary language

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