



Foster Care Forum

Garden City

October 3, 2018

Coalition:

- Independent advocacy organizations
- Youth leaders and families with direct experience
- Came together over concerns about the record number of children in foster care
 - How did we get here?
 - What can we do about it?

Goals for this presentation:

- Share information
- Provide a common foundation for discussion

Goals for the child welfare system:

Federal: safety, permanency, well-being

Goals for the child welfare system:

Federal: safety, permanency, well-being

Kansas Department for Children & Families:

1. Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Goals for the child welfare system:

Federal: safety, permanency, well-being

Kansas Department for Children & Families:

1. Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care
2. Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements

Goals for the child welfare system:

Federal: safety, permanency, well-being

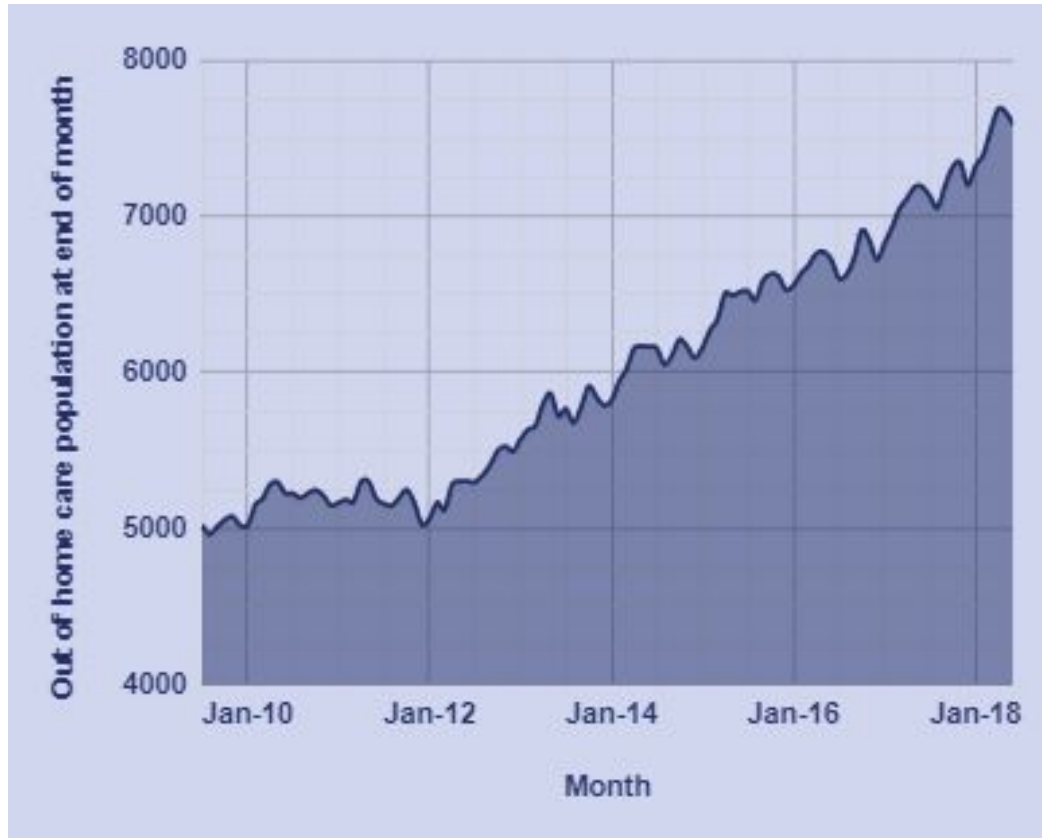
Kansas Department for Children & Families:

1. Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care
2. Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements
3. Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

Goals for the child welfare system:

1. Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Number of kids in foster care:



- 7,588 children in foster care at the end of June 2018
- 2,361 more children in foster care than June 2010
- 396 more children in just last year
- 45% increase in 8 years; 6% increase in 1 year

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.

Number of kids in foster care:

- **Entries**

- SFY 2010: 3,444
- SFY 2018: 4,212 (+22%)

- **Exits**

- SFY 2010: 3,347
- SFY 2018: 3,805 (+14%)
- Not Keeping Pace

- **Average Length of Stay**

- SFY 2014: 16.7 months
- SFY 2015: 18.2 months
- SFY 2016: 18.2 months
- SFY 2017: 18.9 months
- SFY 2018: 19.1 months

Number of kids in foster care:

- Kansas is outpacing the national increase in foster care.
 - US: +9%
 - Kansas: +22%

Sources: National increase of number of children in care as of September 30th, 2012, compared to September 30th, 2016:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Trends in Foster Care and Adoption.



Number of kids in foster care:

- Kansas is outpacing the national increase in foster care.
 - US: +9%
 - Kansas: +22%

Number in
foster care
per 1,000 kids

Kansas: 11

United States: 6

Sources: National increase of number of children in care as of September 30th, 2012, compared to September 30th, 2016:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Trends in Foster Care and Adoption.

Number in care per 1,000 kids: Annie E. Casey Kids Count summary of Child Trends analysis of federal foster care data as of 2015.



Number of kids in foster care:

- Kansas is outpacing the national increase in foster care.
 - US: +9%
 - Kansas: +22%
- More kids in foster care per 1,000 kids than in 42 other states.

Number in
foster care
per 1,000 kids

Kansas: 11

United States: 6

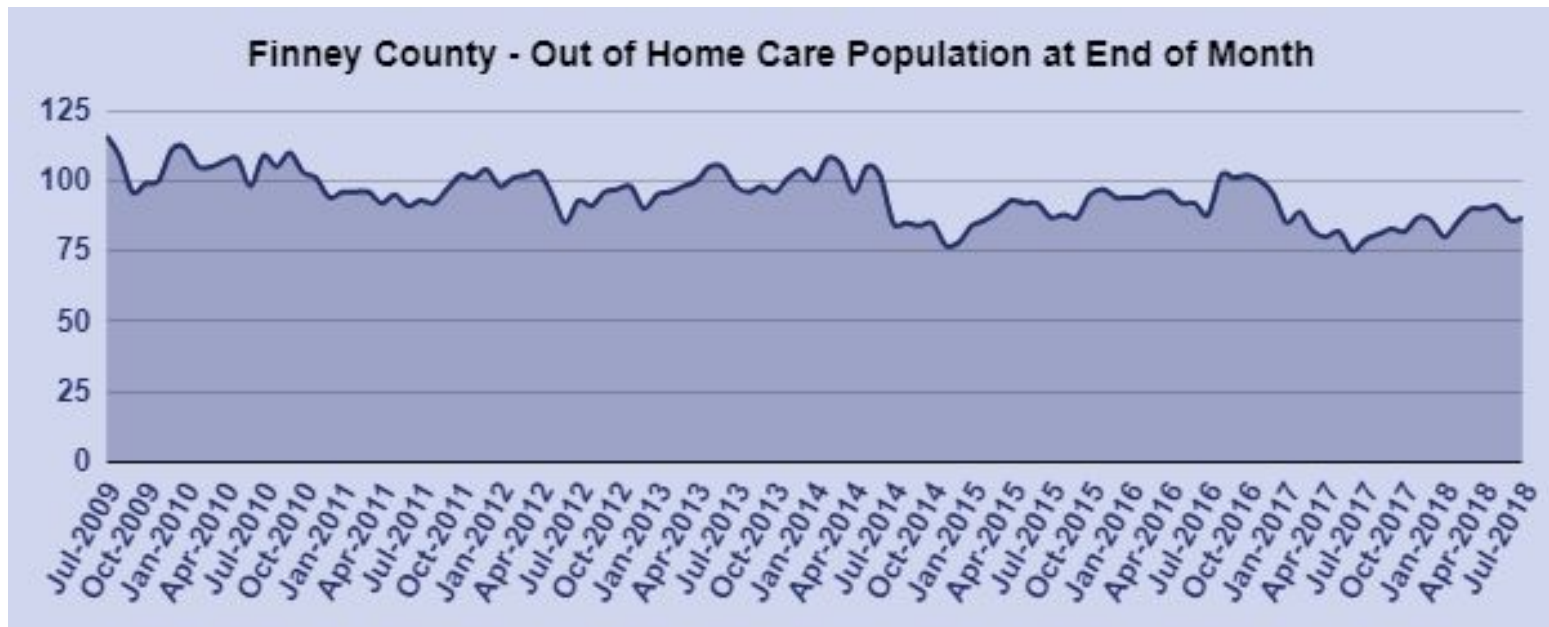
Sources: National increase of number of children in care as of September 30th, 2012, compared to September 30th, 2016:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Trends in Foster Care and Adoption.

Number in care per 1,000 kids: Annie E. Casey Kids Count summary of Child Trends analysis of federal foster care data as of 2015.



Number of kids in foster care:



The trend in Finney County is different from the rest of the state.

The total number of kids in out of home care is variable, but trending flat since 2014.

Potential contributing factor:

- Statewide: Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect

Potential contributing factor:

- Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect:

| Statewide | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change | Finney County | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Intake reports | 55,730 | 72,683 | +30% | Intake reports | 794 | 717 | -10% |

Potential contributing factor:

- Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect:

| Statewide | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change | Finney County | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Intake reports | 55,730 | 72,683 | +30% | Intake reports | 794 | 717 | -10% |
| Assigned reports | 27,915 | 40,623 | +46% | Assigned reports | 413 | 469 | +14% |

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



Potential contributing factor:

- Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect:

| Statewide | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change | Finney County | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Intake reports | 55,730 | 72,683 | +30% | Intake reports | 794 | 717 | -10% |
| Assigned reports | 27,915 | 40,623 | +46% | Assigned reports | 413 | 469 | +14% |
| Removals | 3,444 | 4,212 | +22% | Removals | 64 | 65 | +2% |

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



Potential contributing factor:

- Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect:

| Statewide | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change | Finney County | SFY 2010 | SFY 2018 | % change |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Intake reports | 55,730 | 72,683 | +30% | Intake reports | 794 | 717 | -10% |
| Assigned reports | 27,915 | 40,623 | +46% | Assigned reports | 413 | 469 | +14% |
| Removals | 3,444 | 4,212 | +22% | Removals | 64 | 65 | +2% |
| Referrals to FPS | 2,870 | 2,692 | -6% | Referrals to FPS | 62 | 42 | -32% |

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



Potential solution:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Potential solution: Allow more families to benefit from family preservation services

Reasons for entering care:

- Primary removal reason cited by DCF

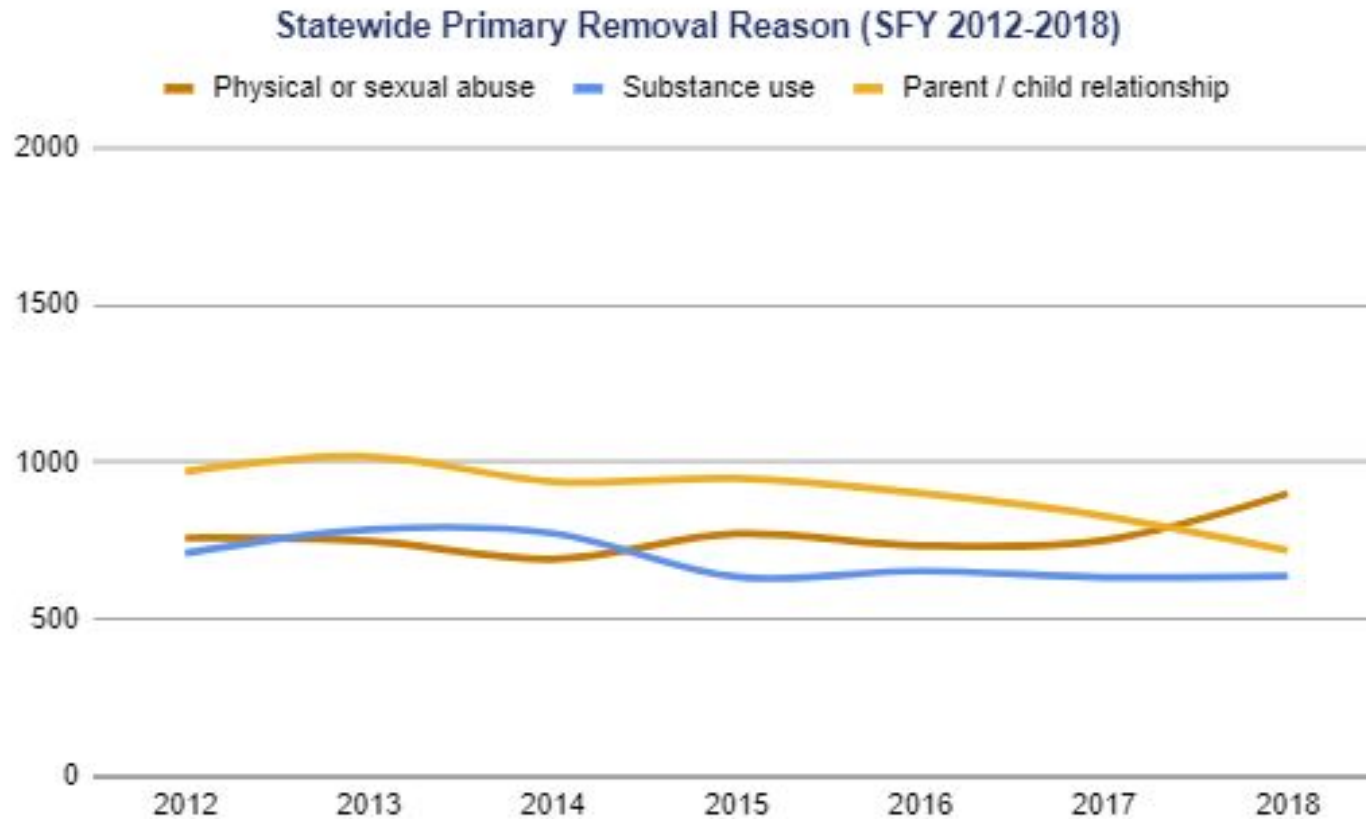
Reasons for entering care:

- Primary removal reason cited by DCF
- As in other states, more removals for neglect than abuse or other reasons

Reasons for entering care:

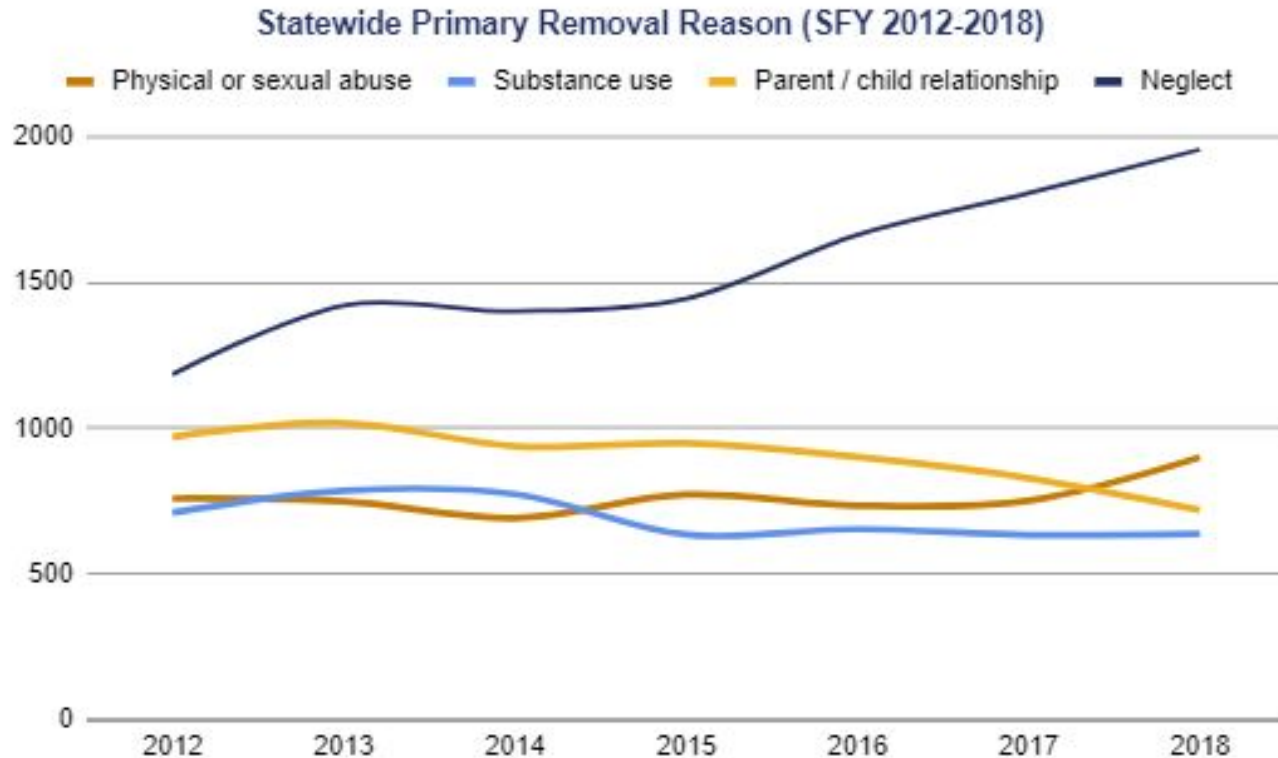
- Primary removal reason cited by DCF
- As in other states, more removals for neglect than abuse or other reasons
- The recent growth in children entering foster care statewide has largely been related to neglect

Reasons for entering care:



Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.

Reasons for entering care:



DCF Tracked Categories

Neglect: physical neglect, lack of supervision, abandonment, incarceration of parents, medical neglect, inadequate housing, death of parents, failure to thrive

Physical or sexual abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse

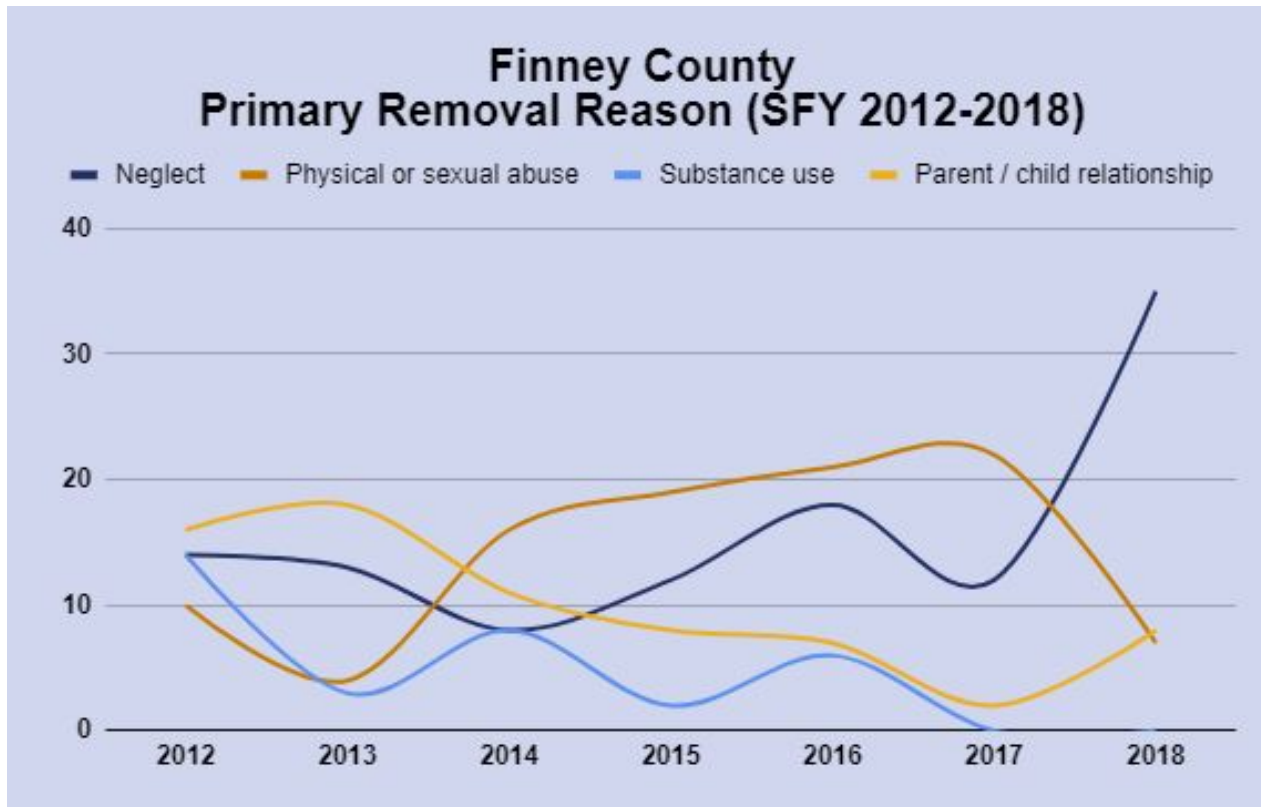
Substance use: drug abuse-parent, methamphetamine use, alcohol abuse-parent, drug abuse-child, alcohol abuse-child

Parent / child relationship: emotional abuse, child behavior problem, caretaker inability to cope, runaway, not attending school, relinquishment, child disability

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



Reasons for entering care:



DCF Tracked Categories

Neglect: physical neglect, lack of supervision, abandonment, incarceration of parents, medical neglect, inadequate housing, death of parents, failure to thrive

Physical or sexual abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse

Substance use: drug abuse-parent, methamphetamine use, alcohol abuse-parent, drug abuse-child, alcohol abuse-child

Parent / child relationship: emotional abuse, child behavior problem, caretaker inability to cope, runaway, not attending school, relinquishment, child disability

***Note:** County level data is only estimated because it is tracked differently than statewide data. Some categories are omitted or combined.

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



Potential contributing factor:

- Social safety net programs in Kansas have assisted many fewer children and families in recent years.

| Number of children served by TANF | | |
|---|--------|-----------|
| | Finney | Statewide |
| July 2010 | 473 | 25,467 |
| July 2017 | 172 | 7,516 |

| Number of children served by Child Care Assistance | | |
|--|--------|-----------|
| | Finney | Statewide |
| July 2010 | 310 | 20,627 |
| July 2017 | 98 | 10,145 |

- Research demonstrates a causal connection statewide between these decreases, and increases in kids in care

Potential solutions:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Potential solution: Strengthen safety net supports.

Potential solutions:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Potential solution: Think about what might be unique to Finney County / Garden City / SW Kansas

Goals for the child welfare system:

2. Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements

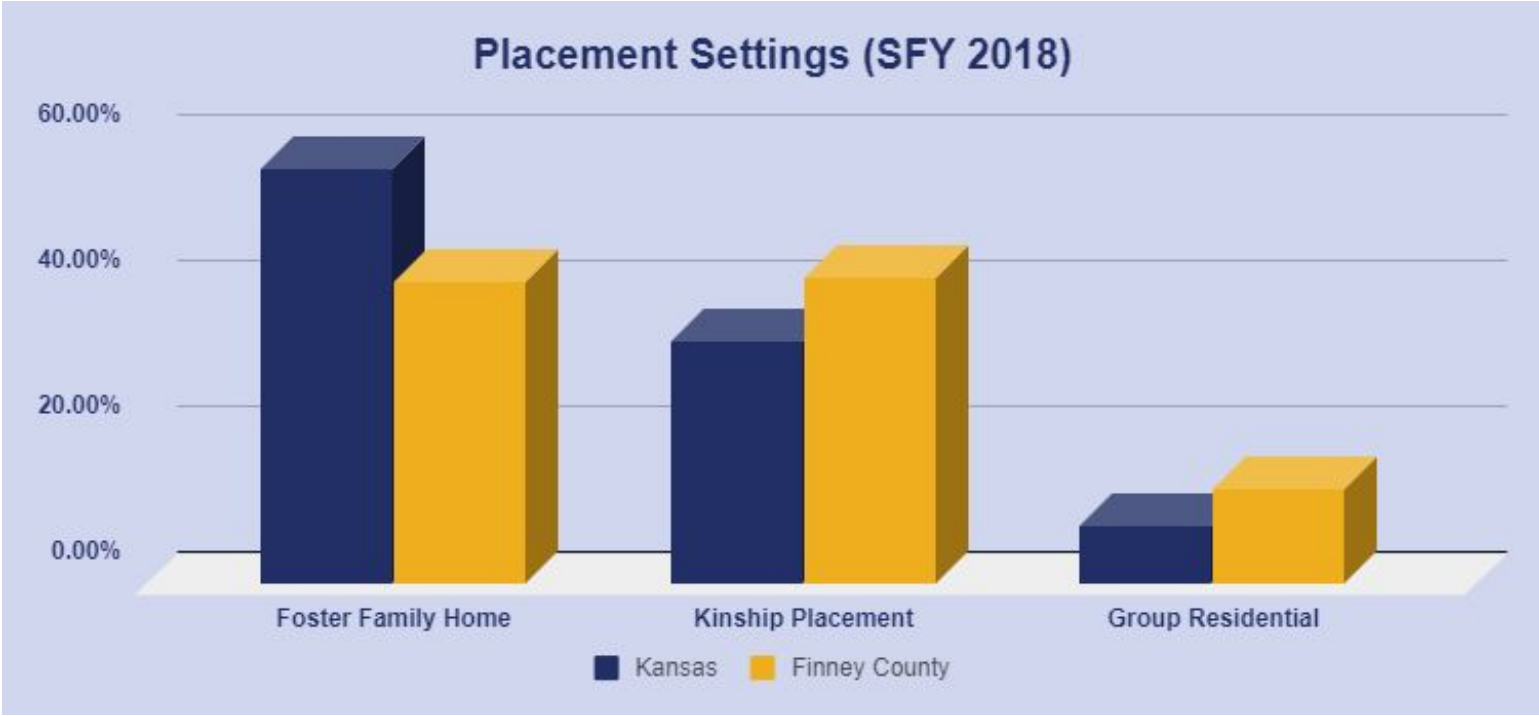
Placement stability:

- Number of placement moves increasing statewide in recent years
- Compliance concerns in recent federal review

Placement stability:

- Nationally, placements with relatives are generally more stable
- Finney County has a much larger percentage of kinship placements than Kansas statewide
- Finney County also has a larger percentage of Group Residential placements than Kansas statewide

Placement stability:



Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



Potential contributing factor:

- Many relative homes are not licensed and receive a lower rate of payment

| Statewide, SFY 2017 | Average # of kids per month |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Non-relative licensed foster home (standard) | 2,152 |
| Relative, non-licensed | 2,182 |

Potential contributing factor:

- Many relative homes are not licensed and receive a lower rate of payment

| Statewide, SFY 2017 | Average # of kids per month | Average daily rate paid |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Non-relative licensed foster home (standard) | 2,152 | \$21 |
| Relative, non-licensed | 2,182 | \$3 |



Potential solution:

Goal: Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements

Potential solution: Provide relative placements more financial support and address potential licensing barriers

Goals for the child welfare system:

3. Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

Permanency:

- Average months spent in foster care for children exiting in SFY 2018 to:
 - Reunification: 10 months
 - Adoption: 38 months

Potential contributing factors:

- Anecdotally:
 - Services parents need as part of their reunification plans may not be available or may have waiting lists

Potential contributing factors:

- Anecdotally:
 - Services parents need as part of their reunification plans may not be available or may have waiting lists
 - High caseloads can make it difficult for social workers to work with families intensively, and contribute to turnover

Potential contributing factors:

- Anecdotally:
 - Services parents need as part of their reunification plans may not be available or may have waiting lists
 - High caseloads can make it difficult for social workers to work with families intensively, and contribute to turnover
 - Additional services may be needed for higher-acuity youth

Potential solution:

Goal: Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

Potential solution: Create conditions through policy for successful reunification or adoption: sufficient services, caseworker attention

Goals for the child welfare system:

Federal: safety, permanency, well-being

Kansas Department for Children & Families:

1. Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care
2. Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements
3. Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

Potential solutions:

- Allow more families to benefit from family preservation services
- Strengthen safety net supports
- Provide relative placements more financial support and address potential licensing barriers
- Create conditions through policy for successful reunification or adoption: sufficient services, caseworker attention

What does this community need?

1. What does this community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?

What does this community need?

1. What does this community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?
2. What does this community need to make sure kids in foster care have more stable placements?

What does this community need?

1. What does this community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?
2. What does this community need to make sure kids in foster care have more stable placements?
3. How can kids in foster care from this community spend less time in foster care and achieve permanency (reunification, adoption) more quickly?

What does this community need?

1. What does this community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?
2. What does this community need to make sure kids in foster care have more stable placements?
3. How can kids in foster care from this community spend less time in foster care and achieve permanency (reunification, adoption) more quickly?
4. What are important issues in this community that we're not talking about?

What does this community need?

1. What does this community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?
2. What does this community need to make sure kids in foster care have more stable placements?
3. How can kids in foster care from this community spend less time in foster care and achieve permanency (reunification, adoption) more quickly?
4. What are important issues in this community that we're not talking about?