



Perspectives of Youth Leaders and Independent Advocacy Organizations

Presentation to Child Welfare System Task Force
February 2, 2018

Coalition:

- Youth leaders and families with direct experience
- Independent advocacy orgs (not DCF-funded)
- Theme: Safely reduce number of kids in foster care
 - May require 'seed funding' but more effective and cost effective over time
- Theme: Reduce number of placement changes
 - May require additional resources for high-acuity youth
- Leadership from legislature and DCF is key

Young Leaders:

- Direct experience in Kansas foster care
- Working with the coalition to connect our experiences to systemic solutions
- Themes:
 - Reduce caseloads to increase contact with youth
 - Keep siblings together
 - Improve mental health treatment for youth
 - More consistency and continuity for youth (a “constant”)

KAAFCAC:

- Why we got started
- Our mission and goals
- KAAFCAC conference (Fall 2016 & 2018)

NASW Kansas Chapter:

- 7,576 licensed social workers qualified to work in child welfare
- Intensive Family Preservation Services Reduce Out-of-Home Placements
- Three Strategies to Develop the Child Welfare Workforce in Kansas:
 1. Strengthen partnerships with Kansas' nine Schools of Social Work
 2. Request BSRB to Review and Update Clinical Social Work Licensing
 3. Invest in a student loan reimbursement program for child welfare positions that are critical to DCF's mission

FosterAdopt Connect:

- Our focus: foster families, biological families, and foster youth
- We provide services in Kansas and Missouri
- Youth and families served by the system know it best
- Priorities:
 - Too few foster families
 - Foster parents feel they don't have a voice in the system
 - Too many youth age out without families
 - Families need in-home services

Families:

- Biological families and foster families
- Connecting our experiences to systemic solutions

KACAP:

- A growing number of low-income families in the child welfare system
- Increasing strain on social workers and other partners
- Documented link between poverty and child maltreatment
- Acknowledging the link between poverty and child maltreatment does not mean accepting stereotypes

Sr. Therese Bangert:

- Brightest and Best workers for Foster Care Services
- Investigate Family Ties
- Thank YOU to Committee
- Story of Dr. Karl Menninger



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