



**DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

FAMILY FIRST RE-LAUNCH

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

RE-LAUNCH OBJECTIVES

- Commissioner's Welcome
- Prevention Nationally
- Connecticut's Perspective
- Workgroup Accomplishments
- Plan Forward
- Timeline to Execute

GREETINGS TO
OUR
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS AND
DCF
LEADERSHIP

COMMISSIONER
VANNESSA DORANTES

Family First Prevention Services
Act (Family First)
National Perspective

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL WILLIAMS

- Collaborative Efforts
- Greater Understanding and Trust
- Identified Gaps and Barriers
- Family First is a Tool
- Lessons from the Pandemic
- Racial Unrest
- Values of Family First
- Manuel's Little Girl
- Community Partnerships/SAC/RACS
- "Casserian Engeri" – Masai Tribe



BUREAU CHIEF
OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS - KEN
MYSOGLAND

FAMILY FIRST CO-LEAD
JOSHONDA GUERRIER

Facilitated Conversations

Workgroup Accomplishments

Next Steps

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - CANDIDACY

- Tasked with defining Connecticut's Family First Candidacy Population
- Selected the following:
 - Accepted Careline calls- allegation of abuse or neglect or Voluntary Services referral
 - Youth who achieve any kind of permanency (adoption, reunification, etc.) and youth who age out
 - Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
 - Siblings of children/youth in foster care
 - Community pathways (unstably housed, JJ involved, infants born substance exposed, families with a caregiver or child that has disability, MH or substance use issues, youth who are trafficked, families experiencing IPV, children of incarcerated parents, or children chronically absent or truant)

CANDIDACY - NEXT STEPS

- Shift focus to infrastructure development – Rebrand
 - *Prevention Infrastructure & Practices*
- Enhance workgroup to include key informants/stakeholders and persons with lived experience
- Explore community partnership opportunities for system design
- Identify IT modifications needed to support family engagement
- Review screening tools and mechanisms to best support families
- Determine the workforce responsible for administering the tools
- Align practice and policy to accompany the enhanced pathways to services
- Engage focus groups to seek consumer feedback at critical junctures of system design
- Seek Governance Committee approval

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - KINSHIP AND FOSTER CARE

- Identified and assessed barriers to children living with relatives or kin – both in informal family arrangements or formal and legal arrangements
- Recommended ways to address and mitigate the identified barriers and support relatives and kin better so that they can meet ongoingly the needs of children who live with them
- Identified strategies to engage relatives and kin at the onset of the potential disruption in a birth parent or caregiver relationship and continue engagement for as long as the agency is involved with the family
- Identified strategies to increase children's placement with well-prepared kin and family-based caregivers when foster care is necessary as a primary way to avoid congregate care
- Identified key components of a Kinship Navigator program that can help facilitate relatives getting care for children outside of formal systems of care

KINSHIP AND FOSTER CARE – NEXT STEPS

- Develop a Connecticut model of Kinship Navigation which may qualify for federal entitlement funding under the Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First). Such a model must contain components for Kinship Navigation prescribed in federal law and demonstrate that it is an evidence-based practice
- Moreover, such a model must be aligned with DCF's practice model for working with kin families to have the intended impact of supporting children in healthy families with a minimal amount of child welfare system involvement

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - PROGRAMS AND SERVICE ARRAY

- Mapped CT's continuum of services that strengthen families across multiple domains and where located:
 - Primary interventions
 - Targeted interventions that support families
 - Interventions offered during placement
 - Aftercare interventions/supports
 - Other interventions
- Identified where services currently offered in CT align across domains and which had Family First Clearinghouse approval
- Identified where gaps existed and other possible interventions to explore
- Reviewed approved candidacy definitions and aligned identified services by candidacy group
- Began to assess evidence base for each to determine which programs/services were already approved or likely to be approved based on level of research/evidence base

PROGRAMS AND SERVICE ARRAY – NEXT STEPS

- Review revised CT Family First submission timeline
- Review progress through March to refresh members on what's completed
- Based on candidacy definitions remaining current, review the service alignment mapping by candidacy group
- Orientation session for new members
- Discuss outstanding questions around services where model's evidence base may require more research
- Finalize recommendations for candidacy plan to submit to Governance by December 2020
- Retain mapping to guide development of prevention plan

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - INTENSIVE TREATMENT 24/7 (QRTP)

- Completed a survey of residential and therapeutic group home providers on the QRTP requirements and cross walked that with scopes of service; honored the vision of QRTP as efficient treatment settings that provide pathways to living in homes
- Surveyed providers on accreditation status and collected information on trauma models
- Set up four taskforces
- Drafted a certification process for review
- Worked diligently with ACF on questions and pulled examples of processes from other jurisdictions, and will continue to do so as needed

INTENSIVE TREATMENT 24/7(QRTP) – NEXT STEPS

- Embed QRTP language in state statute
- Develop recommendations from the four taskforces: certification, aftercare, family engagement/treatment and workforce development opportunities, judicial review
- Build upon lessons learned during COVID that may help in the future

FISCAL AND REVENUE ENHANCEMENT

Accomplishments:

- Receipt of the Maintenance of Effort report; the Department is analyzing it against CTs fiscal information for the baseline year of 2014

Goals Moving Forward:

- Pending receipt of the programs recommended by the Programs and Service Array and approved by the Governance Committee, Fiscal will match those programs against the candidate population to estimate costs and produce financial models on how to best maximize potential revenue streams per Family First guidelines

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- Accomplishments
 - Established committee membership and held initial meeting
 - Approved Candidacy definition
- Next Steps
 - Establish a monthly meeting cadence to review key recommendations from each workgroup and provide recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families

CHAPIN HALL – TIMELINE AND PLANNING CYCLE DELIVERABLES

CONNECTICUT'S FAMILY FIRST TIMELINE

Sept '20

Feb '21

March '21

March '21

April '21

2021-2022

KICKOFF AND REENGAGEMENT

INTENSIVE 24/7 TREATMENT

Develop QRTP standards, develop recommendations for accreditation, judicial review, and aftercare

PREVENTION SERVICE ARRAY

Service alignment & mapping EBP recommendations; Service matching and referral; CQI and evaluation

PREVENTION INFRASTRUC TURE & PRACTICES

Policy and practice alignment, scaling recommendations

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION PLAN & FC PLAN SUBMISSION

**FISCAL AND REVENUE
ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY
FOR SERVICE ARRAY**

**IMPLEMENTATION AND
MONITORING OF PREVENTION
PLAN AND RESIDENTIAL
TREATMENT**

**KINSHIP NAVIGATION
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

- Monthly newsletter and important notices
- General website – www.ct.gov/dcf
- Family First site and e-mail address
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/CTFamilyFirst/Home>
 - DCFCTFamilyFirst@ct.gov
- COVID – 19 site and e-mail address
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/COVID-19/HOME>
 - DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov

AND NOW.....

Questions and Answers?