DCDHS
Child Protective Services

Key Data and Programmatic Updates

May, 2021

Families Served During COVID

Reports to CPS were down 29%-similar to many areas around the country.

- 1363 children were served through Initial Assessments

Less families were screened in for an assessment AND we substantiated a similar number of cases as compared to 2019.

- 208 children were found to be victims of maltreatment.

Total CPS Ongoing caseload slightly increased during the peak of the pandemic but has since returned to pre-COVID level of about 185 families.

Racial Disparities in CPS

Youth Referred to CPS per 1,000 by Race
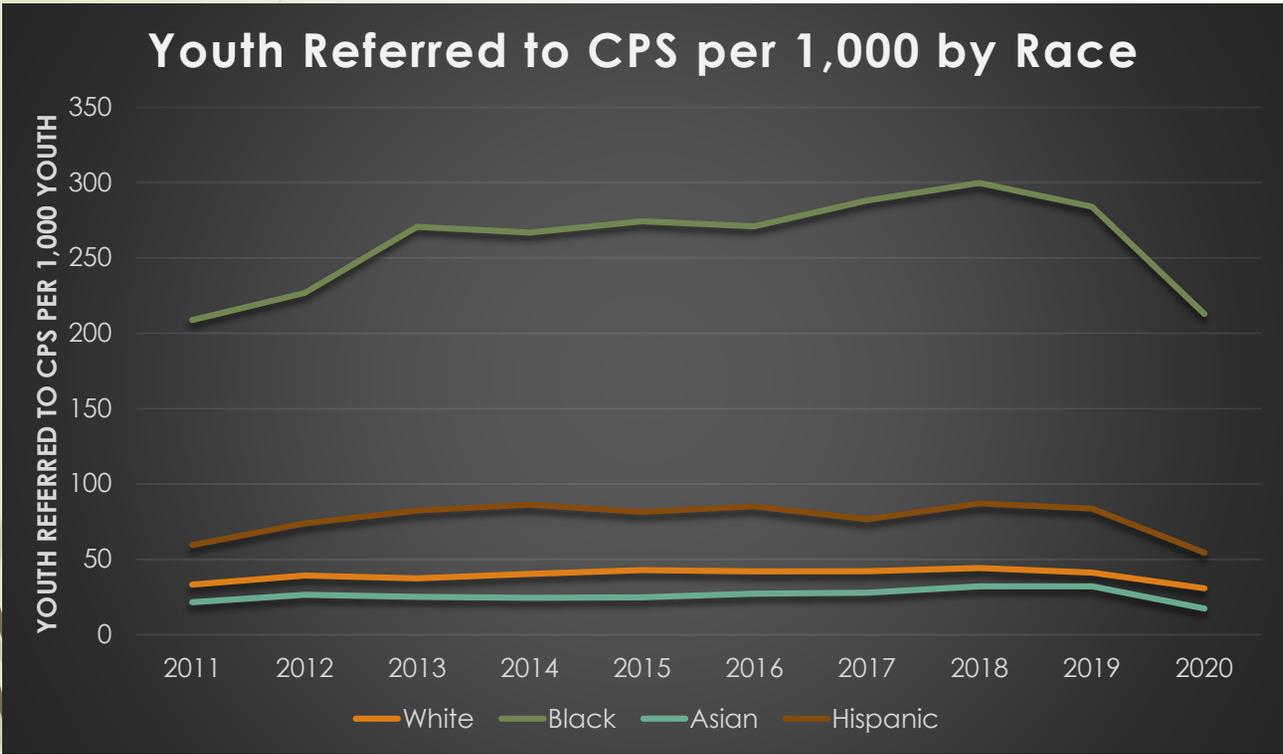
Out of Home Care Data

Historic low numbers of children in out of home care in CPS and Youth Justice.

- CPS has reduced out of home care numbers by 40% since January of 2010 (290 vs. 175 at the end of April, 2021).

- Sadly, 53% of children/youth in out of home care in CPS and Youth Justice are African American.

County Data Comparisons

County	Child Population* (*2018 data)	OH Placements	Rate of Plcmt/1,000 children
Milwaukee	227,422	1893	8.3
Kenosha	38,674	310	8
Brown	62,704	301	4.8
Outagamie	44,129	256	5.8
Dane	110,624	223	2.0
Sheboygan	25,431	199	7.8

New CPS Programming

Mt. Zion Mentoring and Prevention Pilot

- Every other month meet and greets between prospective mentors and mentees.
- Purchase of equipment for a recording studio for youth.
- Pastor Marcus Allen, PhD. is in regular communication with area African American and Latinx churches.

Targeted Safety Support Funds

- Flexible funding to support families being served under a Protective Plan or In-home Safety Plan to prevent removal and support reunification.
- Most funding used to support basic needs-housing, food, household needs.
- Project TSSF Social Worker to enhance and maximize use of this funding.
- Key element of DCF Child Welfare Transformation strategy.

Families Back To The Table

- Providing concrete supports to families-housing help is highest need.
- AA-led organization.
- DCDHS Fiscal Staff provided support around reporting requirements.

FACE

Family and Community Engagement Specialists (FACE) Social Workers

- Two FACE social workers (53719, 53704)
  - One new FACE SW will focus on Sun Prairie.
- 22 families with a total of 63 children being served (full caseloads for both SWs).
- Majority of parents are people of color.
- Shifted focus to community engagement and chronic neglect.
- Dramatic reduction in re-referrals to CPS among families being served.
  - Family 1: Since 2005 - 59 referrals to CPS and YJ. Since working with FACE, this family has not had a single CPS or YJ referral.
  - Family 2: Since 2019 - 7 CPS reports and completed 3 investigations. In the 7 months they have been open with FACE, we have not received any new CPS referrals.

Federal Family First Legislation/DCF Plan - Family First

Federal Agenda

- Shift focus of State funding and intervention on prevention and keeping children/youth in the community.

WI Department of Children and Families Agenda

- Child Welfare Strategic Transformation

  - Keeping more families and children together by preventing removal, shortening length of stay in out of home care and keeping children placed in community settings.

  - 2019 Statewide Data:

    - 80% of children removed for reasons of Neglect.

    - 30% of children removed returned home within 30 days.

    - Consistent research showing that any removal is traumatic for children.

CPS Staffing

■ 9 Supervisors and one Manager – fully staffed

Access/FACE (Phone Intake)-fully staffed

Independent Living – fully staffed

Initial Assessment-budgeted for 23 Social Workers

■ 4 Vacancies (3 new hires identified)

■ 2 new Social Workers

■ 1 Social Worker on leave

CPS Staffing (cont'd)

Ongoing-budgeted for 29 Social Workers and 16 SSS's

- 4 Social Work Vacancies (3 new hires identified)

- 2 SW's on leave

- 2 Bilingual Spanish SSS vacancies

- 1 SSS on leave

Recruitment, hiring and retention goals and efforts

- DCDHS workgroup reviewing hiring practices with recommendations

- Implementation of data tracking to capture turnover rates

- Strategic Planning to Promote Organization Culture: Create, strengthen, and support an organizational culture that exemplifies our core values in which employees feel empowered, respected, and valued.

Questions???

Thank you for your support!