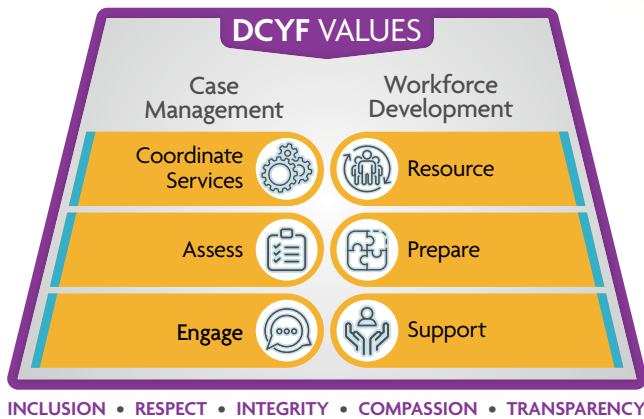


Thriving Families: D.S. Settlement Agreement

Increasing Placement Stability

The goal for the D.S. settlement is to increase placement stability and achieve a youth and family-centered, culturally and trauma-informed system of placements and supports for children and youth with behavioral health and developmental disabilities.

FAMILY PRACTICE MODEL FRAMEWORK



How will families be supported?

Families will have better access to supports and their voices will be sought and incorporated into case planning and decisions, with more emphasis on staying connected to their children in dependency, resulting in an improved family team decision experience.

How will staff be supported?

Staff are participating in the development of the system improvements. They will also experience relief with the additional staff and processes established with this project.

How do we demonstrate we are prioritizing prevention?

Emphasis on placements with kin, keeping youth close to biological families, and referrals to support services are measures that will contribute to increasing placement stability and improving outcomes for children and youth.

How are we reducing disparities?

LGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), and youth with disabilities are disproportionately represented in the group of children and youth who experience placement instability. The system improvements of the D.S. Settlement Agreement are centered around children and youth who experience instability in their placement and in reducing or eliminating that experience.

*This project is part of the **Thriving Families** campaign, which is made up of multiple ongoing projects in the child welfare space.*

***Thriving Families** will allow DCYF to strengthen its work with children and families, and support staff.*

The campaign will improve outcomes for families by safely reducing the number of children in out-of-home placements, supporting families so children remain safely at home, placing children with kin if they cannot remain safely at home, and ensuring placements are safe, stable, and support permanency.

DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, or presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

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