

Fostering Connections: Focus on Child Wellbeing

**2012 Regional CJI Team Meetings
Minn. Dept. of Human Services**



Focus on Trauma

Focus on Trauma

- **Experience of Children in Foster Care**
 - **Neglect**
 - **Physical Abuse**
 - **Sexual Abuse**
 - **Domestic Violence**
 - **Substance Abuse**
 - **Mental Illness**

Focus on Trauma

- **Northwest Foster Alumni Study (Pecora et al., 2003)**
 - **Improve placement stability**
 - **Shorten length of stay**
 - **Build protective factors**

Focus on Finding Families and Permanency

Focus on Finding Families and Permanency

- **Identifying and engaging relatives**
 - **Child welfare policy**
 - **Sibling relationships**
- **Performance data**
- **Technology**

Focus on Finding Families and Permanency

- **Practices:**
 - **Caseworker visits**
 - **Family Group Decision Making**
 - **Concurrent Permanency Planning**
 - **Permanency Roundtables**
 - **Public Private Adoption Initiative**
 - **Extended foster care**

**Focus on Wellbeing:
Education, Physical and
Mental Health**

Focus on Wellbeing: Education

- **Improving Education Outcomes**
 - **Educational stability**
 - **Policy and practice**
 - **Performance data**
- **Practices:**
 - **Caseworker visits**
 - **Case planning**
 - **Education passports**
 - **Education and training vouchers**
 - **Truancy and discipline practices**

Focus on Wellbeing: Physical Health

- **Improving Physical Health Oversight**
 - **Higher risk**
 - **Physical and dental exams**
 - **Performance data**
- **Practices:**
 - **Caseworker visits**
 - **Case planning**
 - **Child and teen check-ups**
 - **Independent Living Skills**
 - **Health passports**

Focus on Wellbeing: Mental Health

- **Improving mental health oversight**
 - **Children's Mental Health screening**
 - **Trauma screening**
 - **Evidence based treatment**
 - **Psychotropic medication**
 - **Performance data**
- **Practices:**
 - **Caseworker visits**
 - **Case planning**
 - **Psychiatric drug consultation**

Contact Information

Christeen Borsheim, Director, Child Safety & Permanency Division

christeen.borsheim@state.mn.us

John Hanna, Foster Care and Permanency Consultant

john.hanna@state.mn.us

Claire Hill, Adolescent Services Consultant

claire.d.hill@state.mn.us

Melissa Sherlock, Adoption Policy Specialist

melissa.sherlock@state.mn.us