



CJI Child Protection Conference: “Connections Matter”

Family Involvement Strategies In Child Protection

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Olmsted County Child & Family Services



Family Involvement Strategies In Child Protection

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Presentation

- Introduction
- What We Value
- Positive Results
- What Makes A Difference
- Family Involvement Strategies

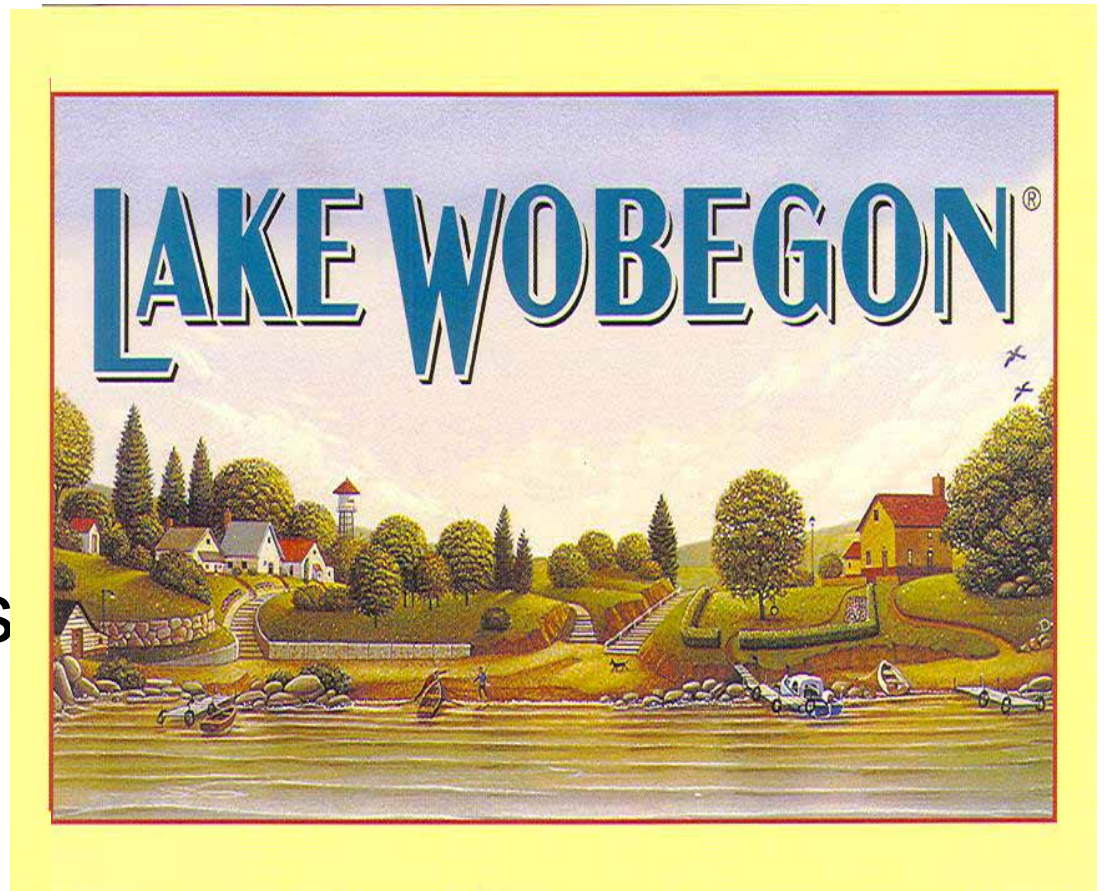


Lake Wobegone

“The women are strong, the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.

“Woe, Be Gone” = dismissal of troubles

“WoeBGone” = be set with troubles









Context

- Minnesota: 5.1 Million
- State Supervised - County Administered
 - 87 counties
 - 11 tribes
- Child Welfare Reform
- Olmsted County
 - 135,000 Urban/Rural
 - 86% Caucasian
 - Regional Hub
 - Rapid Growth



What We Value

- Safety focused intervention
- Partnership with families
- Collaboration with professionals
- Research to practice
- Innovation



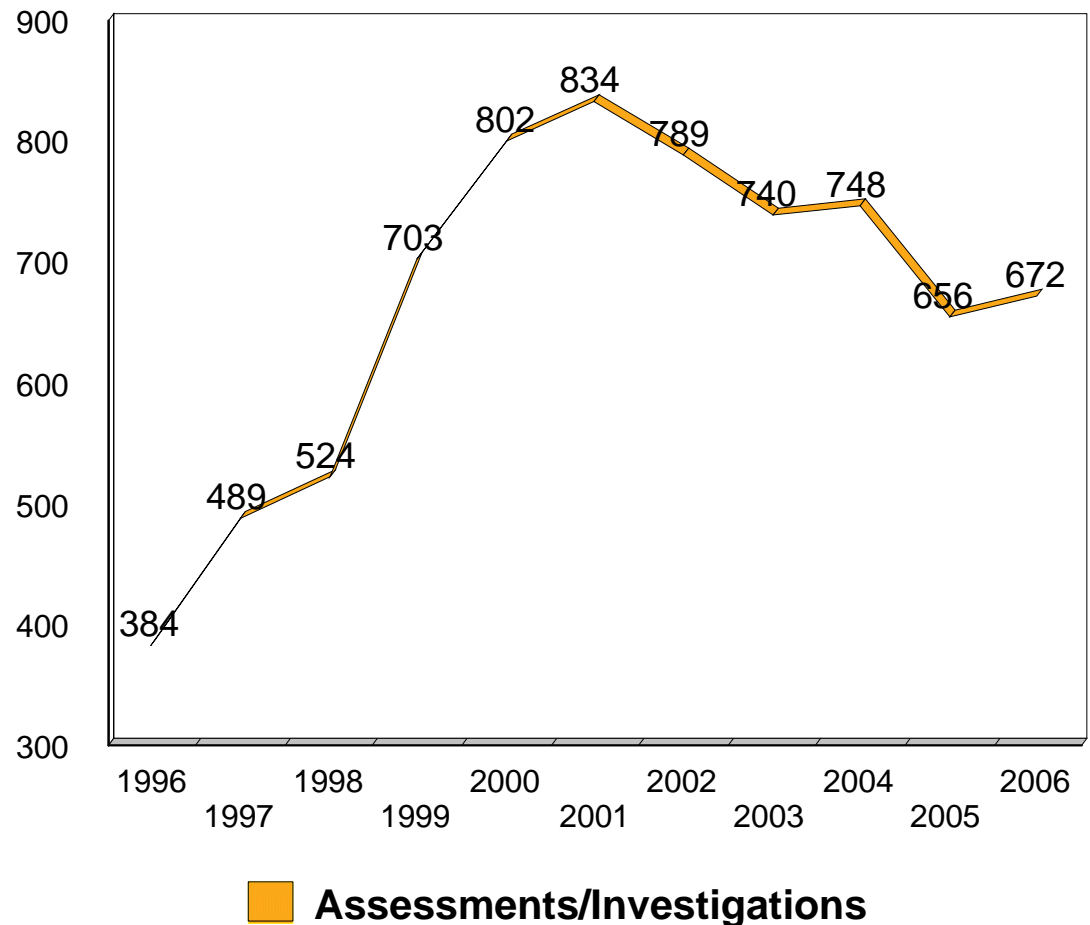
Positive Results In Child Protection

- Fewer investigations
- More family assessments
- Less repeat child maltreatment
- Fewer children in placement
- Less court involvement
- More family involvement
- More children served



Child Protection Assessments/Investigations 1996 – 2006

- 117% increase between 1996 and 2001 (450)
- 19% decrease in child protection investigations or assessments between 2001 and 2006 (162)

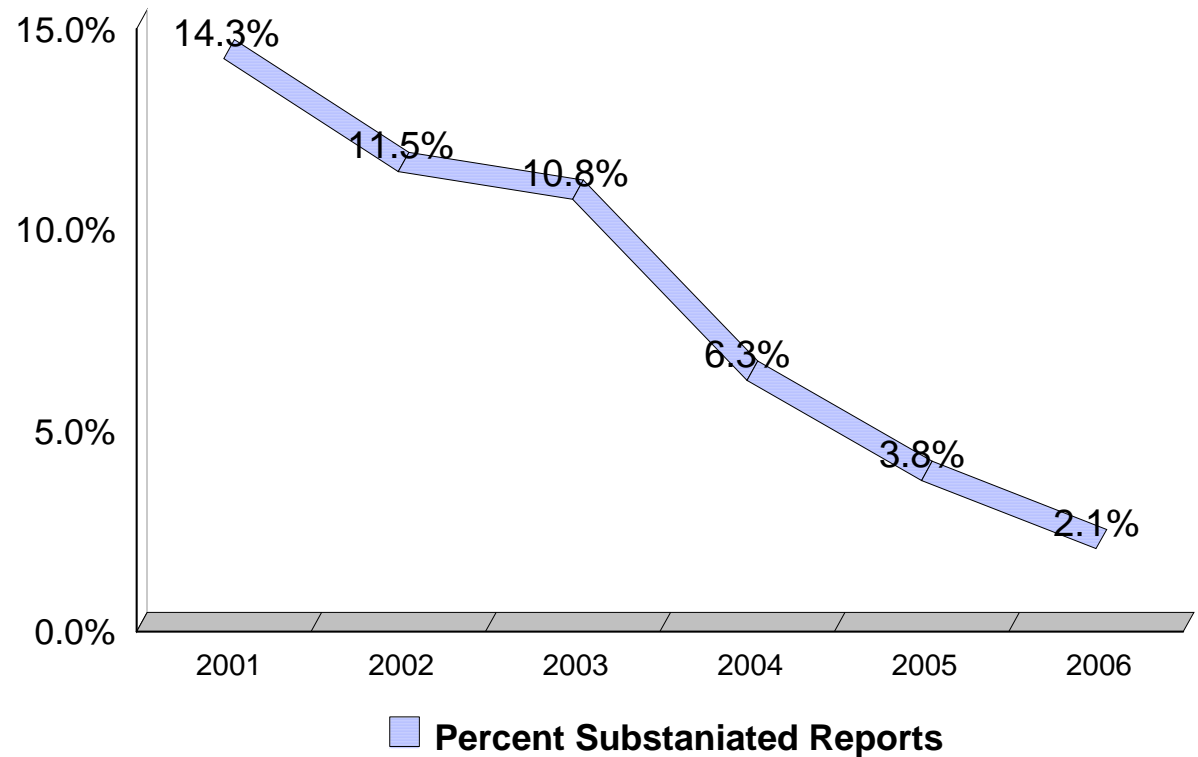




Children With A New Finding Of Abuse And/Or Neglect

Significant reduction in children with a new finding of abuse and/or neglect

Of all children who were victims of substantiated child abuse and/or neglect during the year, what percentage had another substantiated report within a 6 month period



Child Safety Outcome



Moderate Risk
94%
71 (4)

High Risk
95%
85 (4)

Domestic Violence
97%
74 (2)

All Types Combined
96%
230 (10)

Recidivism:
no new maltreatment within 12 months of completing ongoing services

(230 closed cases in 2004)

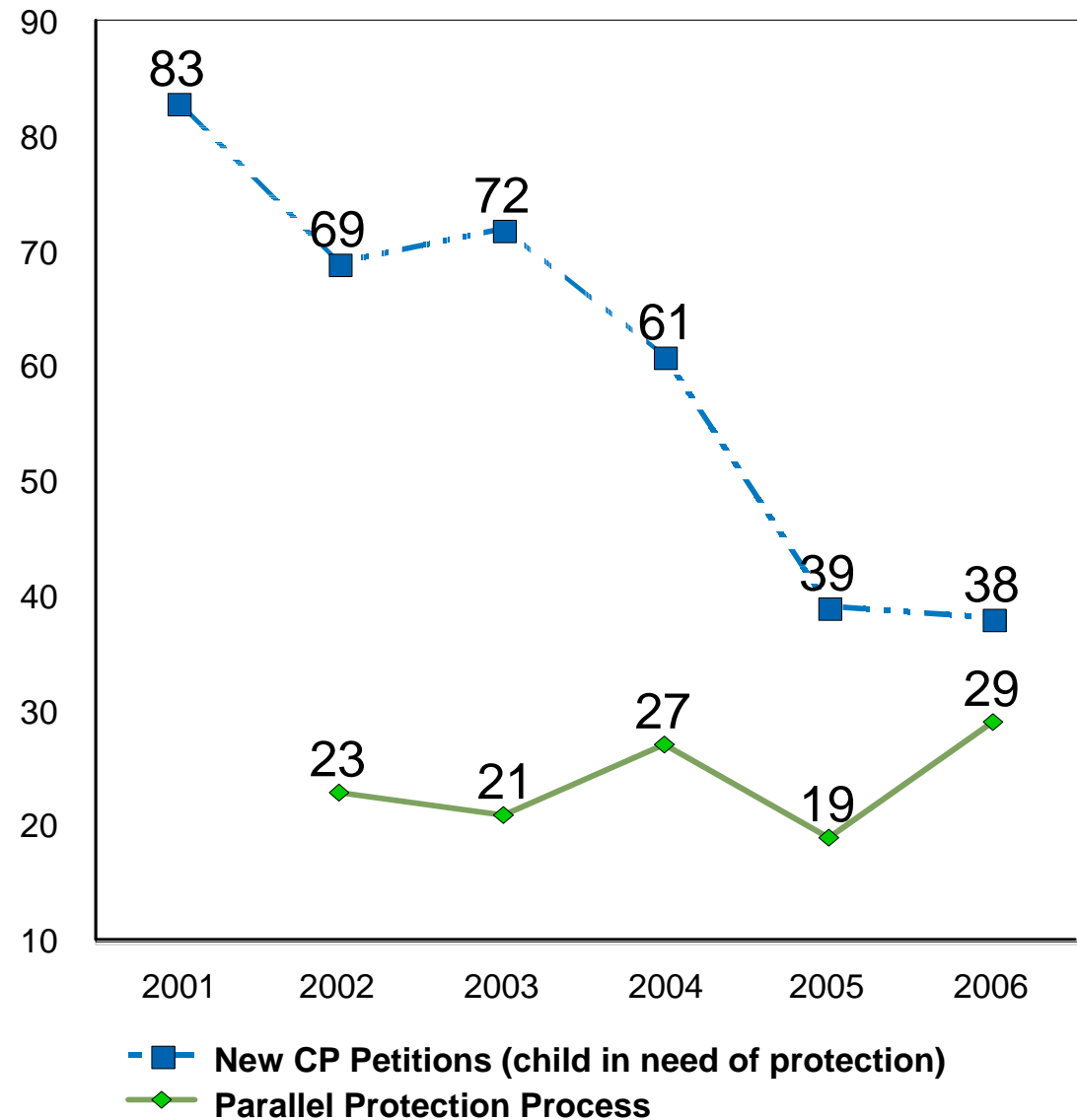


Child In Need of Protection New Petitions 2001 - 2006



54% reduction in
child protection
petitions filed
between 2001 and
2006

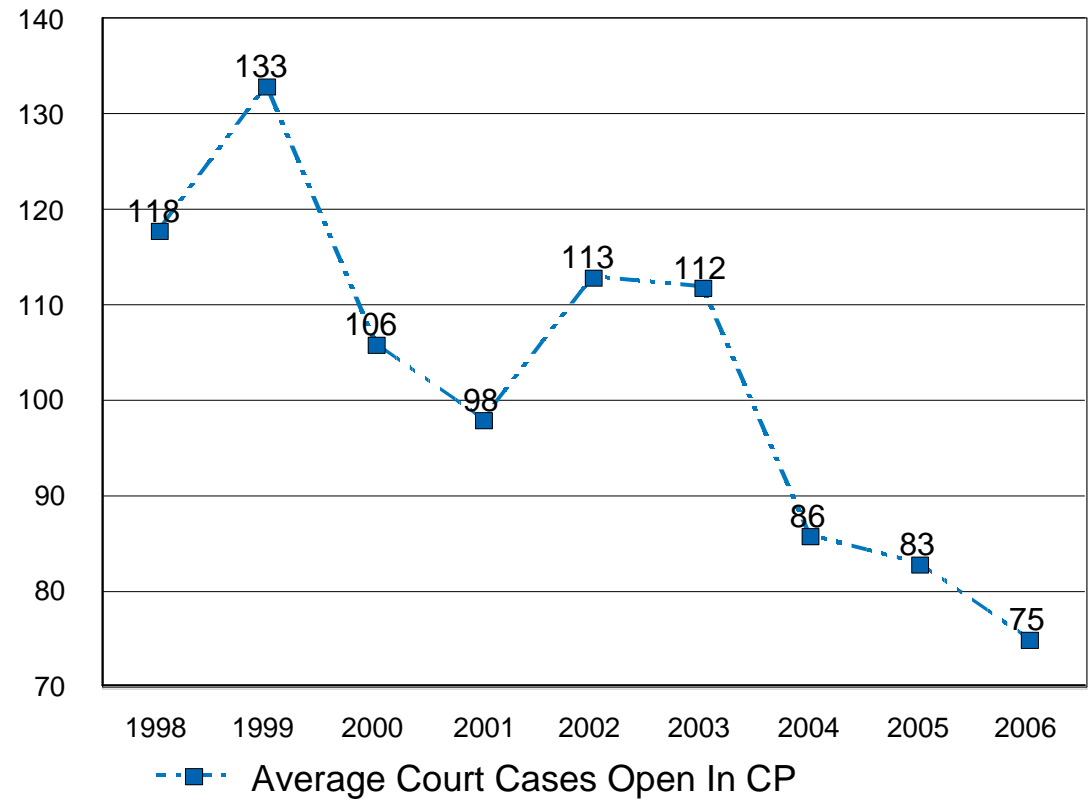
Average of 24.2 court
ordered case planning
conferences per year





Court Cases Open In Quarter (average for year) 1998 - 2006

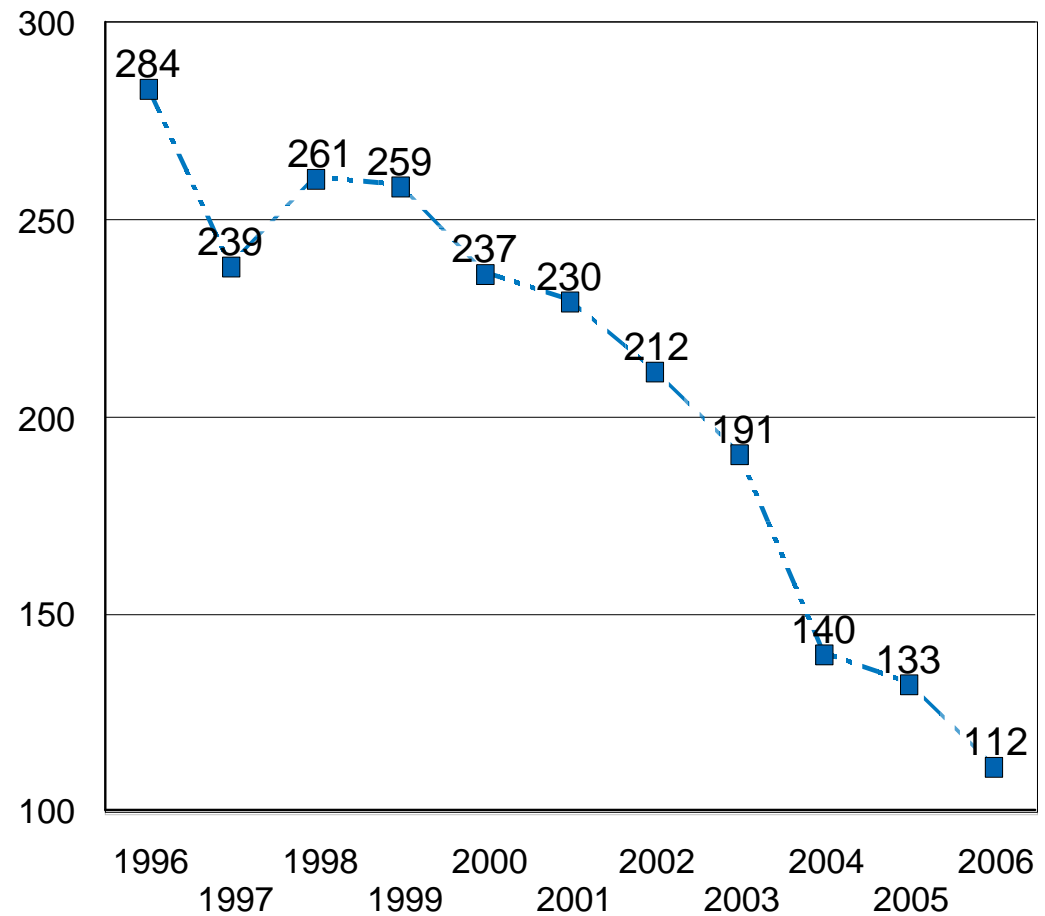
- 30% reduction in average number of child protection cases in court process (37) from 2003 to 2006





Child Protection and Child Mental Health Children In Out of Home Care 1996 - 2006

Significant
reduction of
60% in
placement
outside the
family home



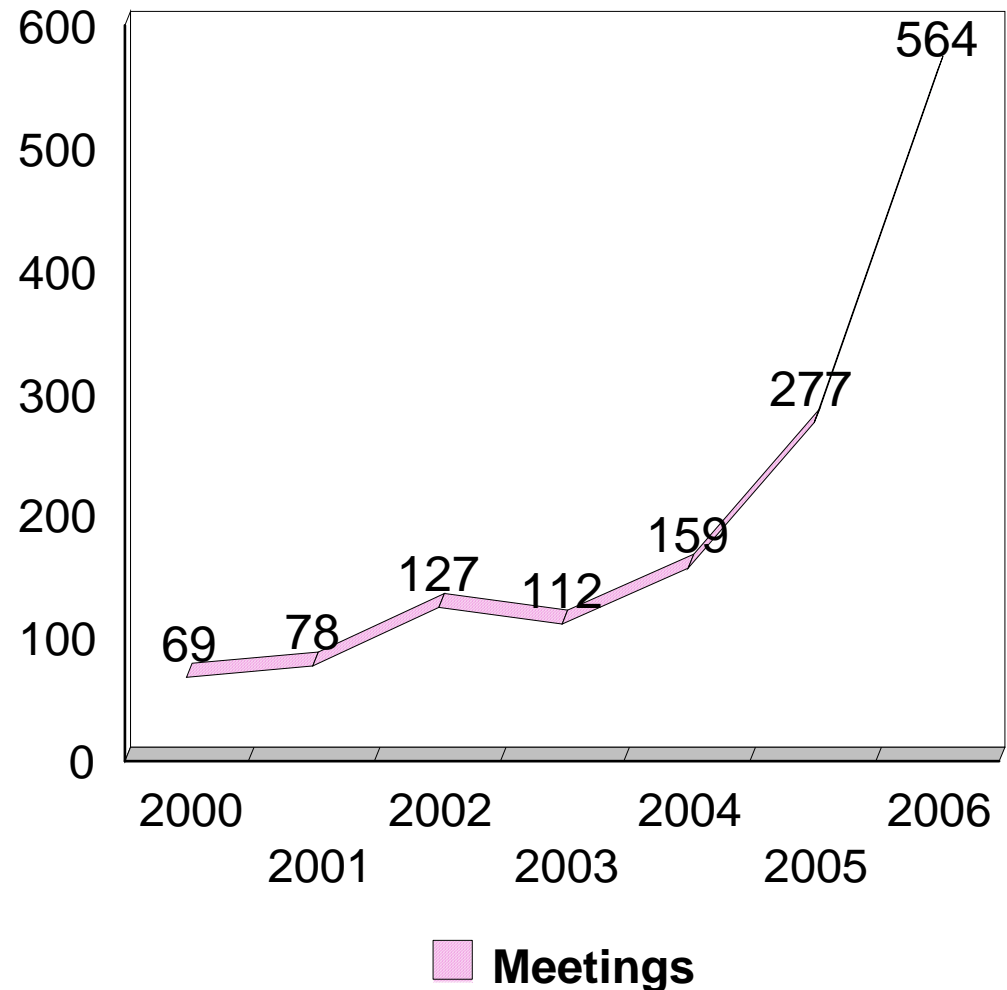
---■--- Children In Out Of Home Care



Family Involvement Strategies 2000 - 2006



- Increased partnership with families
- Increased collaboration with professionals





Child & Family Services Review

Case
Planning
With
Parents
(90%)

1. Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate... (99%)
2. Timely achievement of permanency..... (94%)
3. Preserving children's connections while in foster care..... (92%)
4. Timely reunification, guardianship and permanent relative placement..... (89%)
5. Placement stability. (94%)
6. Social worker visits with parents..... (96%)
7. **Social workers visits with children..... (94%)**

N=138 (36 out of home placement) 3-2005/12-2006



What Makes A Difference?

- Differential Response
- Increased family involvement
- Increased court settlements
- Increased early intervention
- Focused training
- Group consultation & supervision
- Matching risk and resources
- County Board and Administration support



Family Involvement Strategies

Family Service Rochester
Olmsted County Child & Family
Services



Family Involvement Strategies Team

- Public/Private Collaboration
 - Family Service Rochester
 - Olmsted County Child & Family Services



Family Involvement

Theory of Change:

Families that are engaged in a partnership based collaborative practice can build safety, enhance well-being and secure permanency through the development and implementation of family case plans. Family involvement strategies facilitate the marshalling of family strengths, by identifying and calling upon extended family and community supports to remove barriers to effective parenting.



Family Involvement Strategies

Aims

1. Children, youth and families can develop plans that effect their lives
2. Services providers and family members share information
3. Agency commits to active efforts to engage family



Collaborative Practices & Processes

Family Involvement Strategies

Case Planning Process

- Family Case Planning Conference
- Team Decision Making
- Family Team Conference

Decision Making Process

- Family Group Decision Making
 - Family Group Conference
 - Family Unity Meeting
 - Hybrid Family Conference

Dispute Resolution Process

- Mediation
- Settlement Conference
- Collaborative Law

Treatment Process

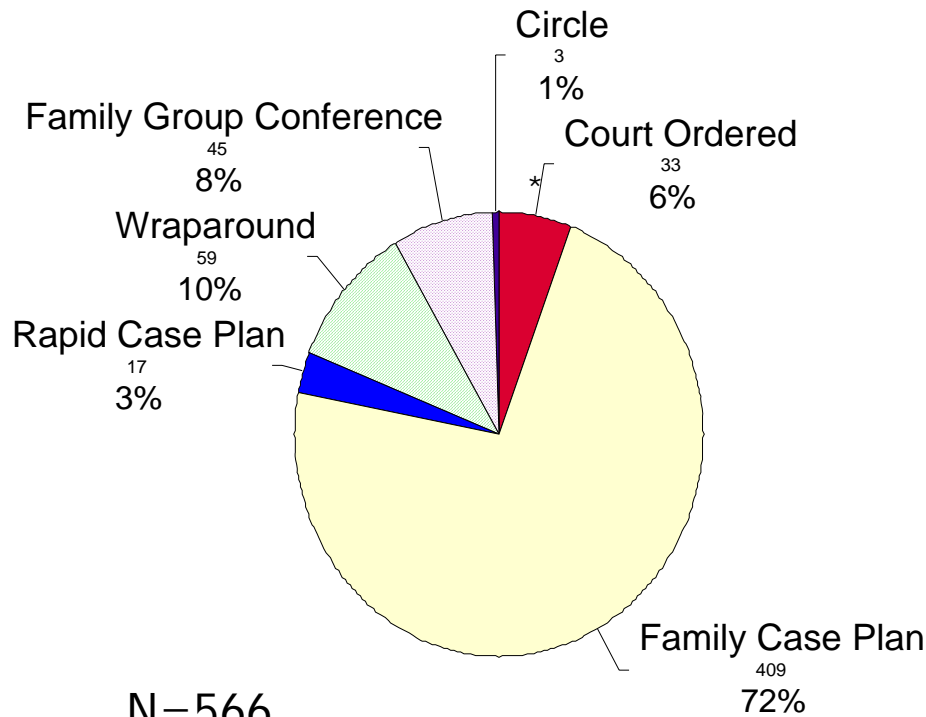
- Wraparound
- Multisystemic Therapy

Restorative Process

- Restorative Justice
- Circles
- Conferences
- Panels
- Reparative Boards
- Mediation
- Dialogue
- Restorative Measures
- Restorative Responses
- Restorative Practices



FIS Model 2006



N=566
conferences

* Family Group Conference = Family Group Decision Making, Family Group Conference

MODEL	Average Hours Prep	Average Meeting Length	Average Number Participants
Family Case Plan	.3 hour Range: 0-	1.5 hour Range:.5-4	7 participant Range: 2-35
Rapid Case	1 ^{2*} hour Range: 0-6	2.5 hour Range:1.5-4	12 participant
Planning Family Group Conferenc	22.5 hour Range: 0-52	3 hour Range:1-5	Range: 7-20 13 participant Range: 5-30
Court Ordered (PPP)	2.7 hour Range: 0-25	2.7 hour Range:1.5-4	10 participant Range: 5-20
Wraparound	.5 hour Range: 0-10	1.5 hour Range:1-1.5	7 participant Range: 4-11
Circle	4.3 hour Range:.5-15	1.5 hour Range:1.5-2	5 participant Range: 3-6



Innovations In Practice

- Court ordered Family Case Planning Conference: Parallel Protection Process
- Rapid Response – Family Case Planning conference in high risk child protection



Parallel Justice Process

“Parallel Protection Process”

Family Case Planning Conference
Operations



Children's Justice Initiative

Improve the processing and outcomes of child protection cases through collaboration of the juvenile court and social service agency



Parallel Protection Process Family Case Planning Conference

Purpose:

1. Development of the immediate next steps in the child protection case plan
2. Negotiation of a settlement on admission or denial of the petition



Parallel Protection Process

Strategy:

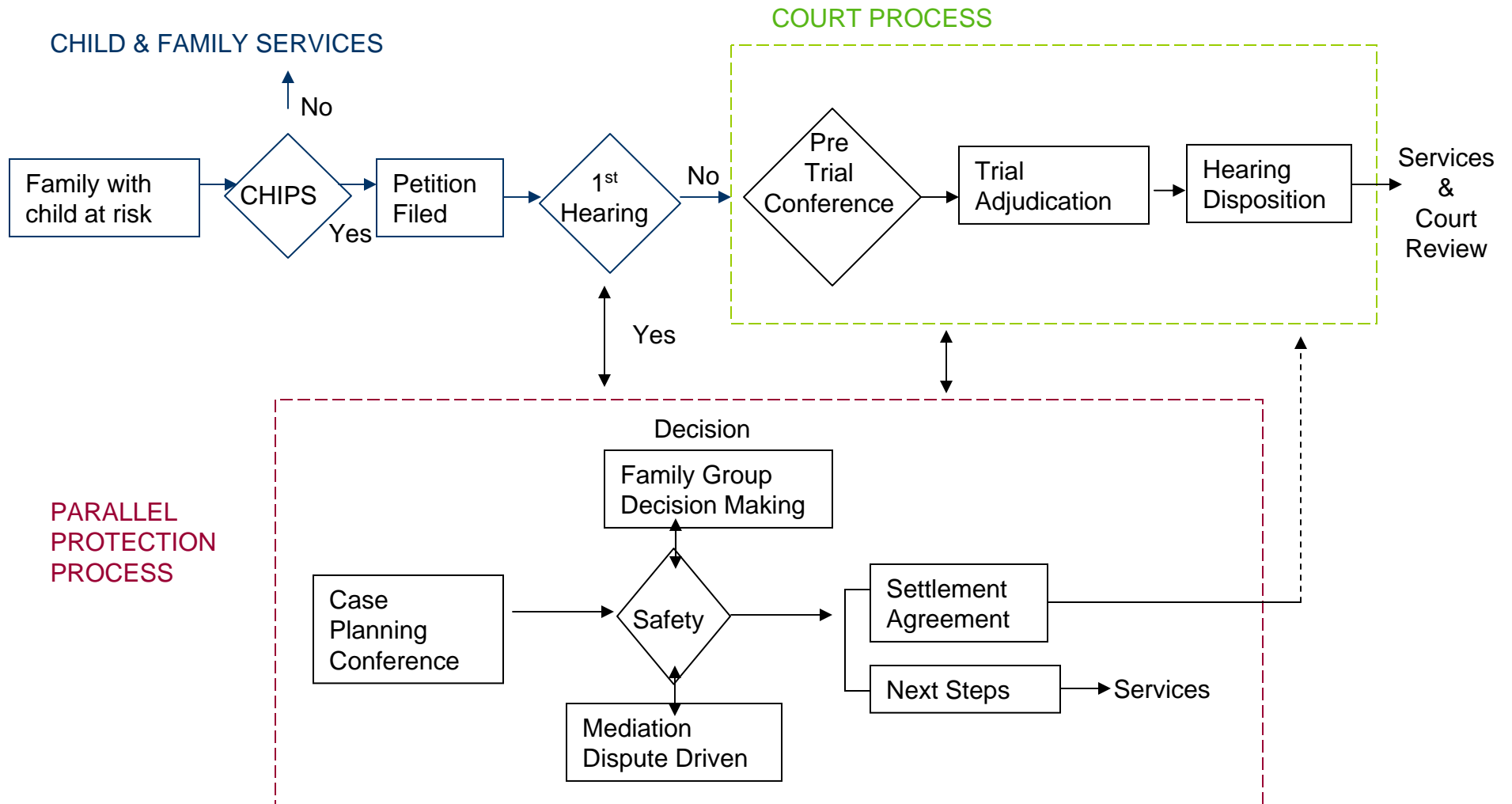
1. Family Case Planning Conference
2. Family Group Decision Making
3. Mediation
4. Settlement Agreement



Olmsted County Court Improvement Project

Parallel Protection Process

A 'Front Loading' Initiative





Parallel Protection Process Family Case Planning Conference

Format:

1. Preparation
2. Introductions/genogram
3. Information Sharing
4. Settlement Agreement
5. Negotiation of a Match
6. Development of Case Plan Parameters
7. Plan Review & Signatures

Information Sharing Framework

Danger/Harm

- Detail re: incident(s) Bringing the family to the attention of the agency.
- Pattern/history

Safety

- Strengths demonstrated as protection over time
- Pattern/history of exceptions

GENOGRAM

Next Steps

Strengths/Protective Factors (Ahlquist 2000)

- Assets, resources, capacities within family, individual/community
- Presence of research based protective factors

Risk Statements

- Risk to child(ren)
- Context of risk

Current Ranking

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

(Immediate Progress)
Safety/Protection
Required

Complicating Factors

- Condition/behaviors that contribute to greater difficulty for the family
- Presence of research based risk factors

- Development of next steps relevant to risk context
- What
- Who
- When
- Etc.

Enough safety to close

Purpose of Meeting

1. Development of the immediate next steps in the case plan
2. Negotiate a settlement on admission/denial of the CHIPS petition

(Lohrbach 2002)

Partnering: Action w/family in their position: willingness, confidence, capacity



Parallel Protection Process

Desired Process Outcomes:

1. Settlement Agreement
2. Next Steps for Case Plan
 - Provides safety
 - Promotes well-being
3. Less Time in Court
4. Adversarial Process Reduced



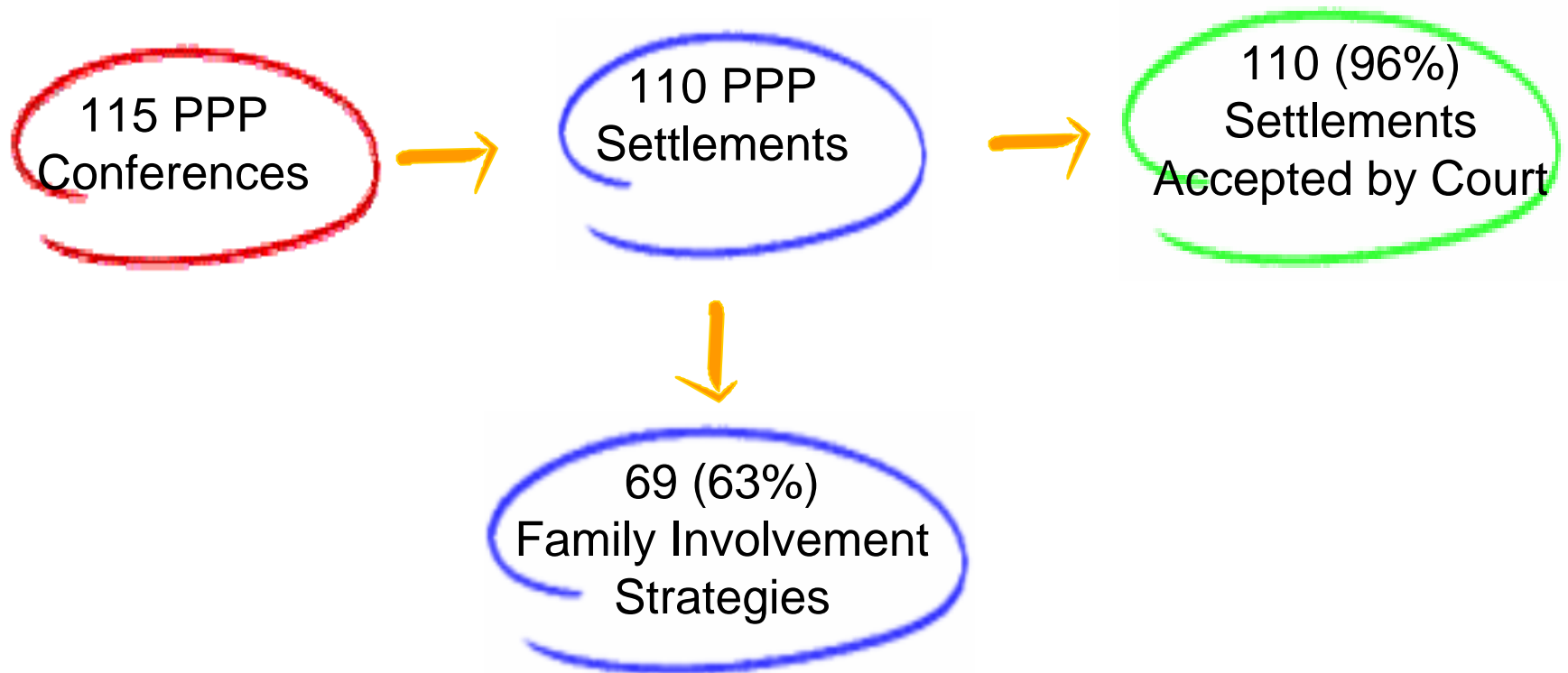
Parallel Protection Process

Project Outcomes:

1. Child Remains Safe
2. Child Permanency Achieved



Parallel Protection Process (PPP) '2002 – 2006 'Settlements'



Note: FIS 90% 2006





Child Safety Outcome 12-Month Follow Up for Maltreatment

Children with PPP Conference 2002-2005

Indicator: Percentage of children with no determined maltreatment finding within 12 months of completing PPP court conference

- **91% children with no maltreatment determination at follow up (124/135*)**

% Children with Maltreatment Determination; by PPP Conference Year	
2002 (N=0/36)	0%
2003 (N=3/29)	10%
2004 (N=6/42)	14%
2005 (N=3/28)	11%

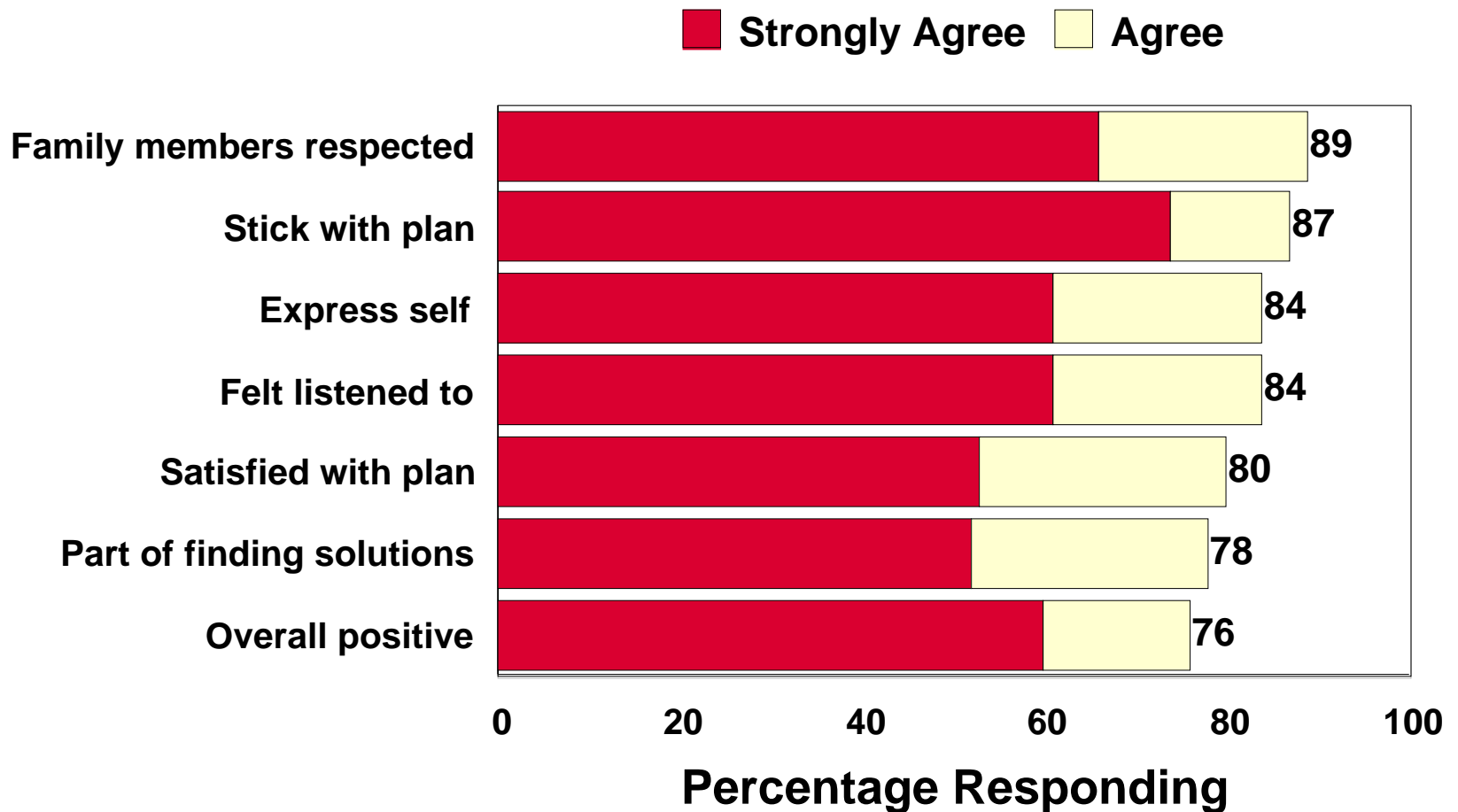
Maltreatment Type: 1-sexual, 3-physical, 5- neglect, 4- substance abuse, 3- inadequate supervision, 1-educational

** 3 children have two PPP referrals each*



Court [PPP] Referrals Participant Satisfaction

Cumulative Participants 2004-2006 (n=62)





Summary Findings

- Family engagement enhanced
- Settlements reduce adversarial process
- Safeguarding children achieved
- Child permanency achieved
- Parents report positive improvement
- Process clarifies reasonable efforts



Summary Findings

- Individualized case plans based on family needs/risks to children
- Front loading – reduces court time
- Social Workers more direct – more concise with families
- Everybody is more knowledgeable/shared understanding of goals
- Relatives identified earlier



Rapid Response

Case Planning Conference



“Rapid Response”

A rapid response to engaging family and community members in safeguarding children at risk of child maltreatment and/or at risk of placement



Rapid Response

Purpose:

To engage and infuse family and community members in an agency Family Case Planning Conference (FCPC) to enhance assessment and safety planning at the critical agency decision making points when a child is at risk of maltreatment and/or placement outside their family home.



Rapid Response

Purpose:

To provide a child at risk of maltreatment and/or placement outside their family home access to their extended family members in a supportive strength based FCPC which ensures child safety and promotes child well-being and stability.



Rapid Response

Context:

1. The FCPC provides a forum in which the family and agency seek common ground to safeguard children.
2. The identification of family members with a stake in the safety, well-being and stability of the child will support the achievement of positive results.



Rapid Response

Context:

3. The presence of additional professionals (medical, law enforcement, etc.) will ensure critical information is presented and collaborative efforts initiated.



Rapid Response

FCPC Goals:

1. Develop a safety plan for children
2. Engage kin/relatives in safeguarding children
3. Identify family care options and kinship resources
4. Identify any family, community and/or agency resources to address risks of harm to the children



Rapid Response

Format:

1. Preparation
2. Introductions
3. Agency purpose
4. Child's family genogram
5. Identify reported danger and/or harm to child
6. Family assets, resource and capacity to benefit child



Rapid Response

Format:

7. Identify conditions or behaviors contributing to greater family difficulty
8. Identify specific risks to the child and the context of the risk
9. Construct a safety plan for child
10. Obtain approval of the safety plan by an agency CPS supervisor and law enforcement (if involved)
11. Activate safety plan



Rapid Response

Post Meeting Responsibilities:

1. CPS social worker to complete the family assessment or investigation for accepted reports of child maltreatment.
2. Agency social worker to facilitate implementation of decisions reached at the FCPC.
3. Distribution of the safety plan.



Rapid Response

Post Meeting Responsibilities:

4. Consultation Framework forwarded:
 - a) CPS Supervisor
 - b) Agency record
 - c) Others identified at FCPC
5. Family members, community participants and service providers to carry out their responsibilities
6. Follow-up meeting scheduled



Rapid Response

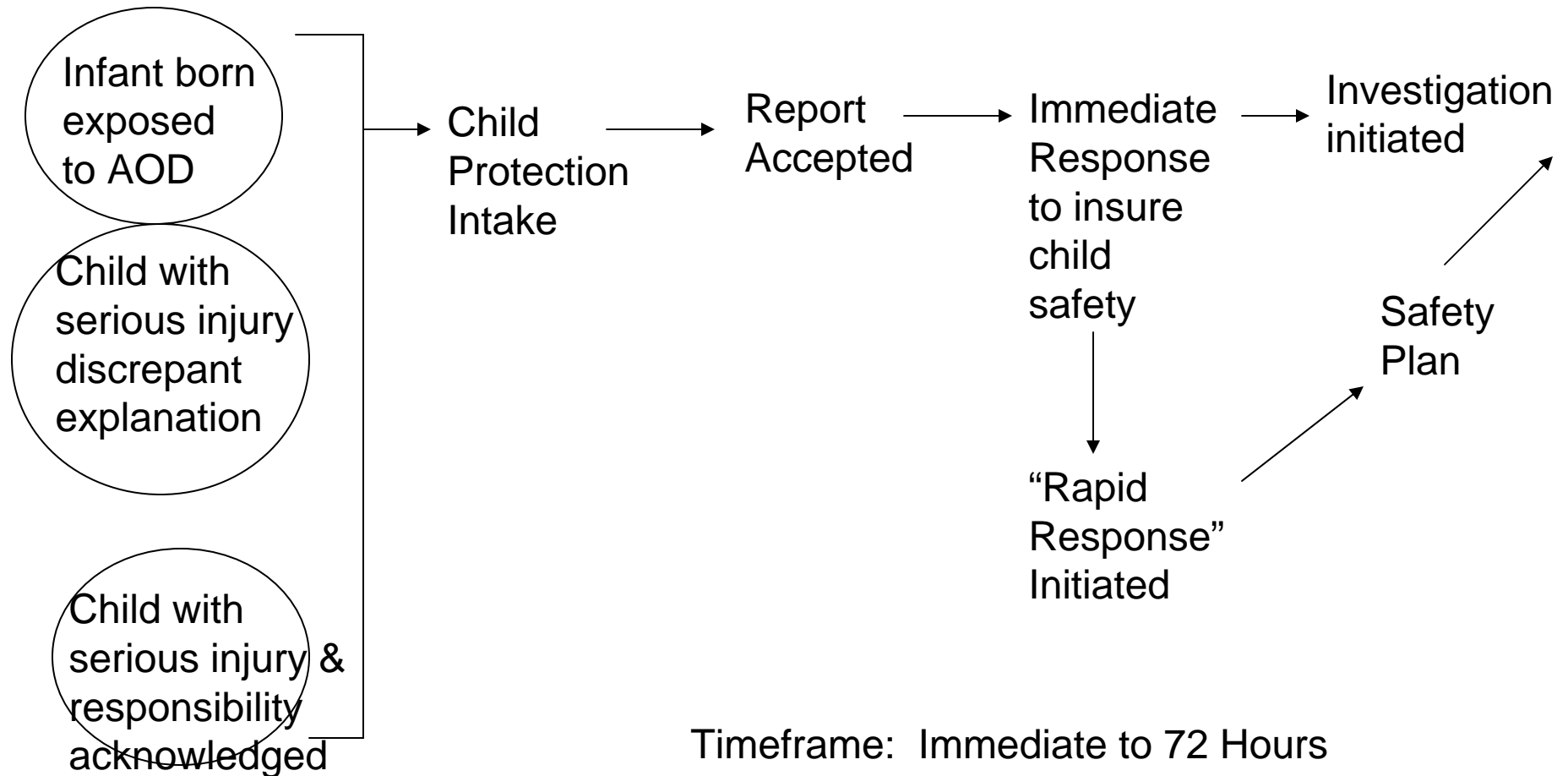
Anticipated Results:

1. Children will be safely cared for with their immediate or extended family or kin.
2. Increase in family and community member participation in the development and implementation of safety plans safeguarding children.
3. Increase in family and community resources available to safeguard children at risk.
4. Increase in kinship care supports.
5. Reduction in time a child spends in foster care with strangers.



Olmsted County Child & Family Services “A Rapid Response To Engaging Family & Community Members In Safeguarding Children At Risk Of Child Maltreatment”

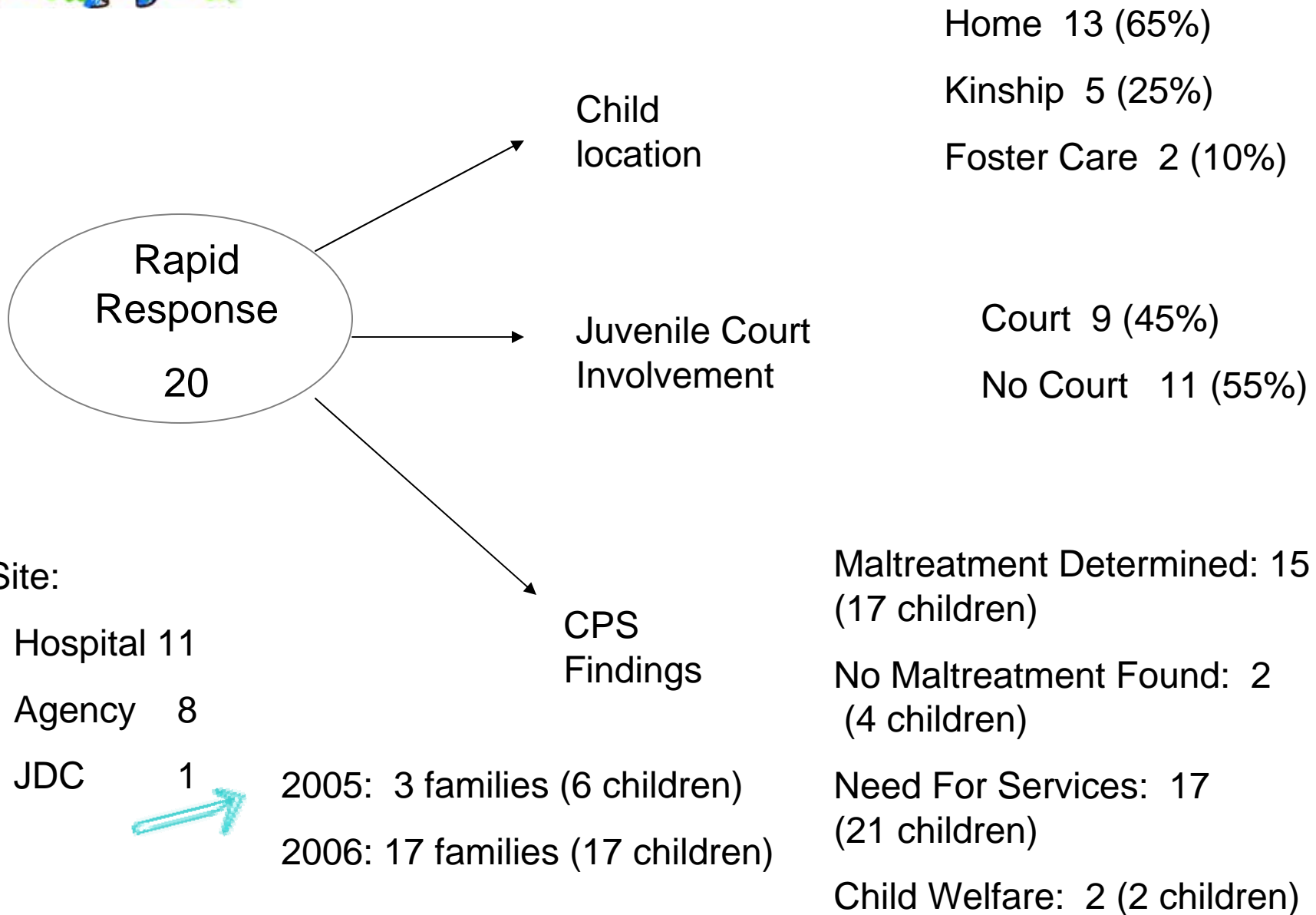
Child Safety Concern



Timeframe: Immediate to 72 Hours



Olmsted County Child & Family Services "Rapid Response" 2005 - 2006

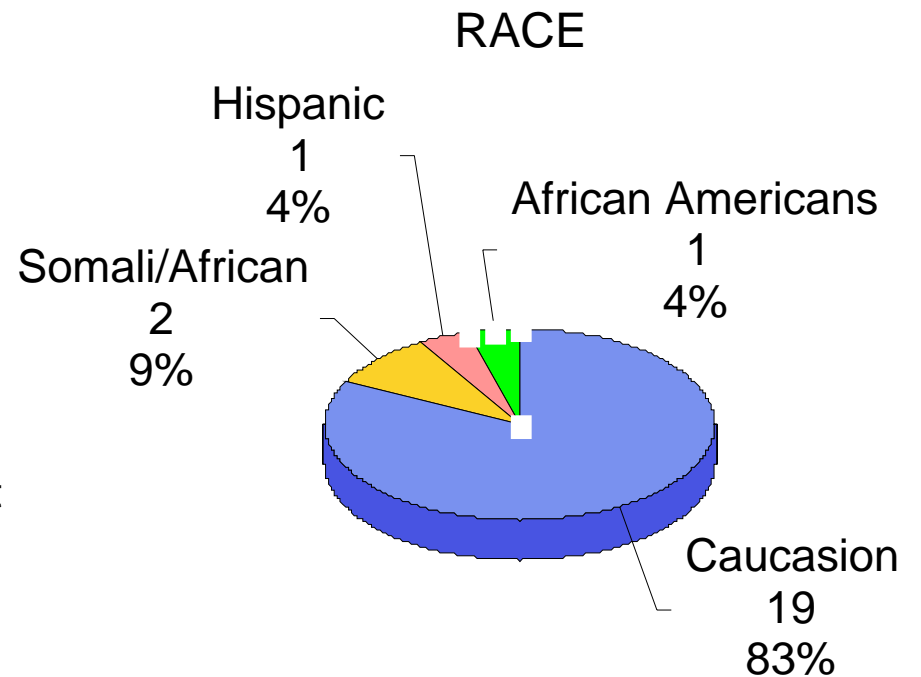
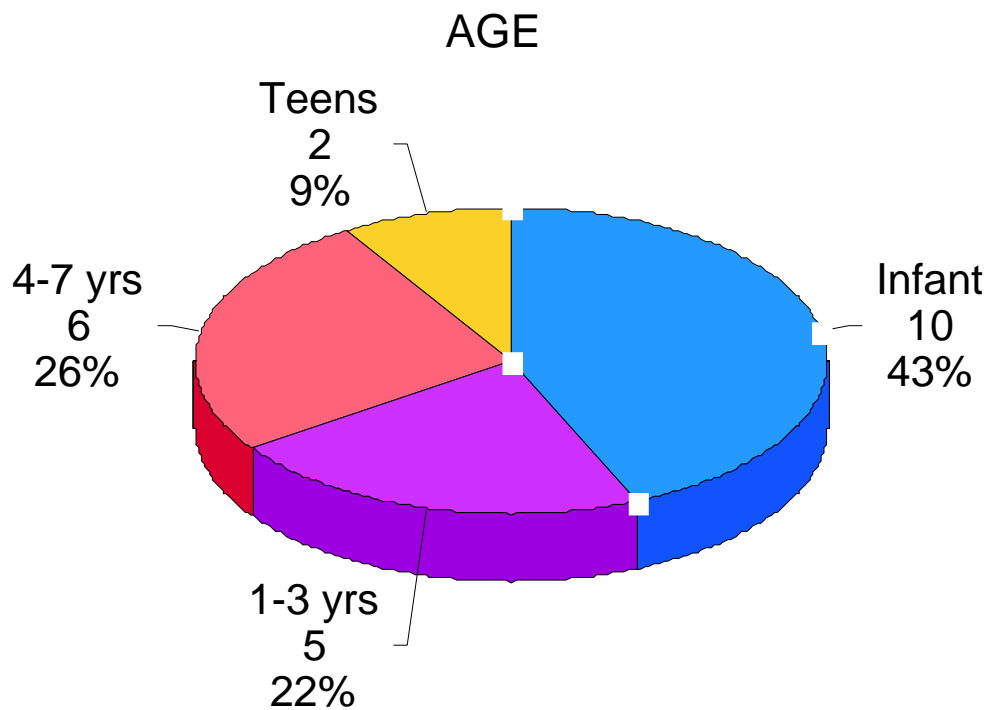




Rapid Response Child Demographics

N= 23 children

Girls: 11 Boys: 12





*Child Safety Outcome
12-Month Follow Up for Maltreatment*

Rapid Response Conference Data

6 Children (3 family conferences) in 2005

17 Children (17 family conferences) in 2006

Follow up as of April 2007:

2 reports, no determinations

1 report within 30 days after conference

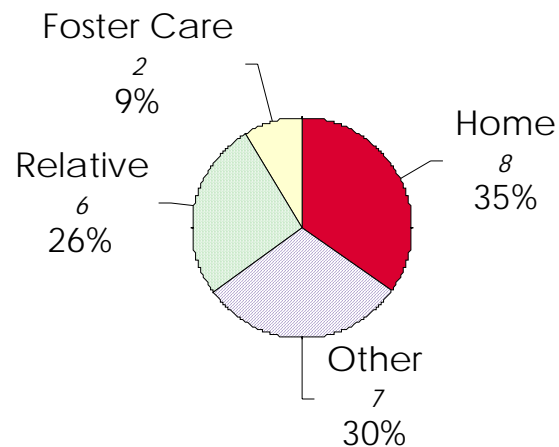
1 report within 4 months after conference



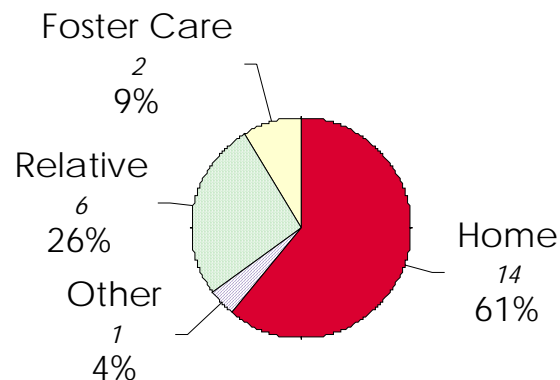
Family Preservation Outcome

Children with Rapid Planning Conference 2005-2006

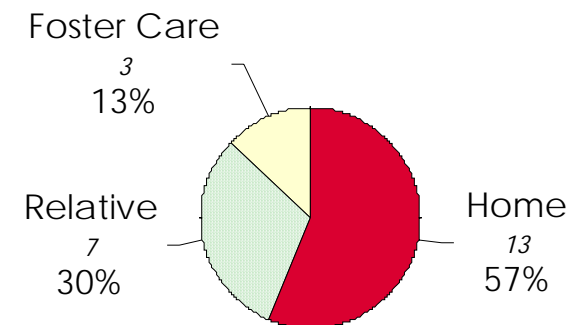
N=23 Children



TIME OF REFERRAL



END OF CONFERENCE



Current As of 4-18-07



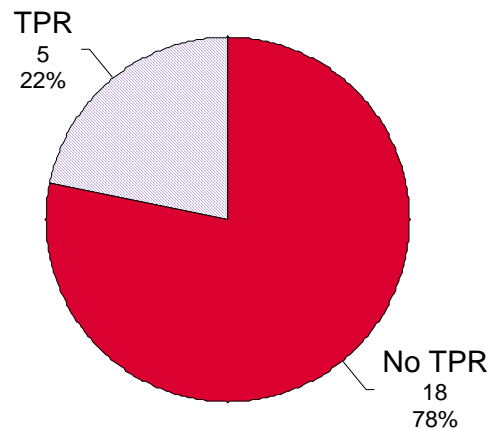
Family Preservation Outcome Termination of Parental Rights [TPR]

Children with Rapid Case Planning

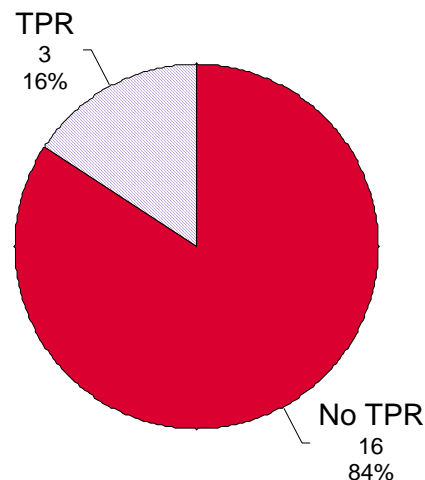
**23 Children, 19 Families with
Rapid Case Plan Conference 2005-2006**

TPR status as of April 12 2007

CHILDREN
Total: 23



FAMILIES
Total: 19



3 families with TPR:

- 1 child/1 family TPR 10 months post RCP
- 3 children/1 family 11 months post RCP
- 1 child/1 family 7 months post RCP



Thank You

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

- Will Rogers, Jr.



Appendix



	Purpose	Conference Coordination/Preparation	Participant Make-up	Information Sharing Stage	Decision or Plan Making Stage	Documentation	Frequency	Average length of time from referral to conference and length of conference
(FGDM) Family Group Conference	Develop a plan or make a decision.	FGDM staff does all coordination and preparation which may take anywhere from 20 to 40 hours per conference	Usually involves immediate family, extended family, informal supports and service providers	Service providers present relevant factual information and statutory bottom lines	Plan is developed during Private Family Time, presented to the group and may be strengthened with input from the service providers	FGDM staff will send typed version of notes taken at the conference and the family's plan within 1 week of conference	Typically one conference with possible follow-up conference	3-6 weeks/3-5 hours per conference
Family Case Planning Conference	Share information and develop immediate next steps	Referring worker typically does all coordination. FGDM staff may assist if circumstances warrant more thorough preparation	Usually involves service providers and immediate family. May include extended family and informal supports	Facilitated discussion is centered around the agenda which is determined by all participants at the beginning of the conference	Immediate next steps are developed and agreed upon by the family and service providers	Notes and immediate next steps are typed by FGDM staff and distributed to all participants at the end of the conference	Can be a single conference or on-going conferences	1-3 days/1 to 1.5 hours per conference
(P-3) Court Ordered Family Case Planning Conference	Negotiate a settlement on the admission or denial of the CHIPS petition and develop the immediate next steps	FGDM staff does all coordination and preparation with family which takes anywhere from 2 to 6 hours. Supervisors are responsible to prepare case managers	Always involves parties, attorneys and relevant service providers. May include extended family and informal supports	Facilitated discussion utilizing the consultation framework**. County Attorney presents legal bases for the filing of the CHIPS petition	Parties and attorneys negotiate a settlement on the admission or denial of the petition. Immediate next steps are developed and agreed upon by family and service providers	Settlement agreement is typed by Social Service staff, reviewed and signed by all parties. Notes and immediate next steps are typed by FGDM staff, reviewed and signed by all participants. Both documents are forwarded to the court	One Conference	Scheduled by the court; minimum 1 week notice/3 hours per conference
Wraparound	Develop a team and a unified case plan	Coordination efforts may be negotiated amongst family, referring worker and FGDM staff	Usually involves immediate family, extended family, informal supports and service providers	Information is shared as part of an ongoing process incorporating strengths and needs in relation to the development of a case plan	A unified case plan is developed by the team	To be determined by the team	On-going process	2-3 weeks/1-1.5 hours per wraparound
Circle	Build relationships	FGDM staff does all coordination and preparation	May involve immediate family, extended family, informal supports, service providers and community members	Includes an opening and closing ceremony and the utilization of a talking piece which enhances individual participation and listening	Group consensus on how to proceed	Typically not applicable	Can be a single circle or on-going circle	1-3 weeks/1-2 hours per circle

*This document is only a guide. For further clarification please contact FGDM staff.

**Framework utilized to organize and analyze information in ongoing balanced assessment. Based on "Signs of Safety" and evidence based practice research.

