

SAFE, HEALTHY, CONNECTED: DCF IN THE 21st CENTURY

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A child protection system is part, but not all of, the Family Strengthening System





Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.

--Paul Batalden

Institute for Healthcare Improvement



Why change?

Currently:

- The child protection system gets involved after a child has been harmed.
- Many families are reported for struggling with being poor
- Sometimes our "help" is not helpful
- Last year, for 3,849 children, family separation was the safety intervention



What are we targeting?

We now know:

- Physical harm and emotional harm both leave imprint on the body
- ACES cause long term, often irreversible, health and social problems





First, do no harm.



What are we targeting?

OLD PARADIGM solves for physical safety





New Paradigm?

- Protect children
- Preserve families
- Prevent, interrupt and treat ACES
- Promote protective factors





Making the Shift



To assist and empower NJ residents in being safe, healthy and connected.







- Collaboration
- Equity
- Evidence (criteria)
- Family
- Integrity





CORE APPROACHES TO OUR WORK

- Race Equity
- Healing Centered
- Protective Factors Framework
- Family Voice
- Collaborative Safety



STRATEGIC FOCUS

Build/Maintain Service Excellence:

- Timely Permanency
- Resource Family work
- Promoting empowerment for women and girls
- Promoting integrated health in primary and behavioral healthcare systems
- High quality, communityengaged, primary prevention programs.
- Thriving & Interdependence

Transformative Goals

Primary prevention of maltreatment and fatalitiesPreserving kinship connectionsStaff health and wellnessCSOC Integrated healthcare









VISION: EVERYONE IN NJ IS SAFE, HEALTHY & CONNECTED



BUILT ON THE VALUES OF: EVIDENCE - FAMILY - COLLABORATION - EQUITY - INTEGRITY

