

Live Free and Thrive!

An Update on New Hampshire's Child Welfare Transformation Efforts

Focus on Strengthening all Families

- Redefining safety to help all children live free from abuse, neglect and a toxic environment
- Utilizing a population health approach
- Striving for technical excellence in child protection and juvenile justice

DHHS is:

- Deeply examining the “front end” of the child protection system
- Looking at the factors that influence calls to Central Intake
- Connecting at-risk families (calls not accepted for assessment, Unfounded with Reasonable Concerns) with community resources
- Revalidating structured decision-making tools and processes

Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families

- Piloting evidence-based child maltreatment prevention models in all families with children aged 0-8 in Manchester, the Winnepesaukee Public Health Region and the North Country

DCYF:

- Calls to DCYF Intake reached record highs each month from October 2018 to February 2019
- As of January 2019, assessments assigned per CPSW average in the 40s (with a goal of 12 per CPSW)
- Key issues:
 - Staffing Levels
 - High risk families/voluntary cases
 - Revising and updating the service array
- DCYF is seeking funding for additional CPSWs, CPS supervisors, Case Aides, Administrative Support Staff and District Office Nurses
- DCYF is also seeking additional State Office staff, including program specialists to staff an “Action Line” to explain the system to callers
- Additional prevention and voluntary service programs for high risk families are needed

WAYS TO SUPPORT DHHS:

- Call/email your [senator](#) and [representative](#), encourage them to fund DCYF's full budget
- [SB 6](#) and [SB 14](#) had public hearings on April 9, 2019. SB 6 includes increased funding and resources for DCYF. SB 14 moves toward compliance with the federal Families First legislation and promotes building a System of Care.