

## The DCFS Vision: Safe Children, Strengthened Families

Children must be protected from the trauma of abuse and neglect, and when safe to do so, protect them from the compounding trauma of removal from their families and the poor outcomes of foster care by utilizing in-home services.

### The DCFS HomeWorks Program

- HomeWorks is a set of evidence-based strategies, tools, and expectations that best support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children with their family.
- The program is being developed with the support of policymakers, with funding and collaboration with Utah's Federal Title IV-E waiver child welfare demonstration project, Casey Family Programs, and Utah's Court Improvement Program (CIP).



Child welfare is evolving from its original purpose of "saving" children from abuse, neglect, and poverty, into a system in which the achievement of permanency through family is an outcome equivalent to that of safety.

- Casey Family Programs

## Key Components of HomeWorks

### Structured Decision Making (SDM)

Includes evidence-based child safety & risk assessments.

Guides frequency of professional client contacts & operationalizes our Safety Model.

Funded by CIP and developed in collaboration with the National Council on Crime & Delinquency's Research Center.

### Utah Family And Children Engagement Tool (UFACET)

An evidence-based child & family assessment.

Expedites & guides identification of family needs and services.

Developed with the PRAED Foundation, based on the Child & Family Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment.

### Advanced Professional Approach

Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework developed with the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the National Resource Center for In-Home Services.

Trauma prevention and response developed with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

### Community Resources

Peer parenting service using the evidence-based Systematic Training for Effective Parenting.

Online child welfare community resource directory.

Service inventory & gap assessment, guiding future service development.

### Foster Care Outcomes:

- Young adults who were in foster care as children are just as likely to suffer from PTSD as U.S. veterans of the Vietnam and Iraq wars.
- 1 in 4 young adults who were in foster care experience homelessness after aging out of care.
- Over 270,000 inmates in U.S. prisons were once children in foster care.

## Implementation

- SDM is currently implemented statewide.
- Future Regional Implementation of UFACET, Advanced Training, Community Resource Directory:
  - October 1, 2013 - Pilot Sites: Ogden and Logan
  - April 2014 (Approximate) - Northern Region
  - 2014 & 2015: Other Regions

Questions? Please feel free to email Kevin Jackson at [kevinjackson@utah.gov](mailto:kevinjackson@utah.gov)