

Kentucky Permanency Roundtables

Partnership with Casey Family Programs

Presentation developed in partnership with:

Barry Salovitz, MSW, Senior Director, Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs

Sue Hoag-Badeau, Director, Knowledge Management, Casey Family Programs.

Tina Hagenbuch, MSSW, KY Roundtable Project Administrator

Teresa C. James, LCSW, Deputy Commissioner

Kentucky Department for Community Based Services

Who Wouldn't Want a Family?



Learning Objectives for This Session



■ Permanence

- Gain better understanding of the benefits of permanence
- Identify specific skills and behaviors related to permanence that can be implemented in practice.
- Develop knowledge of the KY Permanency Roundtable process, and identification of the vital role of community partners in achieving permanency goals for Kentucky's children.

OVERVIEW OF THE KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE PROCESS Fall 2009

- In the summer of 2009 we began planning for the first KY Roundtables.
- DCBS identified case based upon criteria

Overview of the Specific PIP Tasks

- in-home services
- effective interventions
- case planning and service delivery
- relatives are utilized
- permanency goals are appropriate & timely
- foster parents and relative caregivers are supported

Quality Assurance Systems

Front Line
Worker
Supports

Family Involvement
and Capacity

Case Work
Quality

Prevention
Activities

Permanency
Roundtables

Courts

Service
Provision

Child Stability
and
Permanency

Community
Partner
Collaboration

Improving
Systems

The
Strategies
Overlap

OVERVIEW OF THE KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE PROCESS Fall 2009-SPRING 2010

- 162 cases involving 212 children.
- 3 day session
- Engaged Conversation
- Action Plan development

The Permanency Roundtable goals:

- To develop a permanency plan for specific children that can be realistically implemented. To establish life long connections and/or supports for these children.

The Permanency Roundtable goals:

- To stimulate analytical thinking with our staff and develop/model clinical practice as we seek pathways to permanency for these children and other children.

The Permanency Roundtable goals:

- To identify and address barriers to permanency that might be changed through professional development, policy change, resource development, and the engagement of system partners.

Target Children and Families

- **Based on TWIST reports in**
 - **July and August 2009**

Who are the target children?

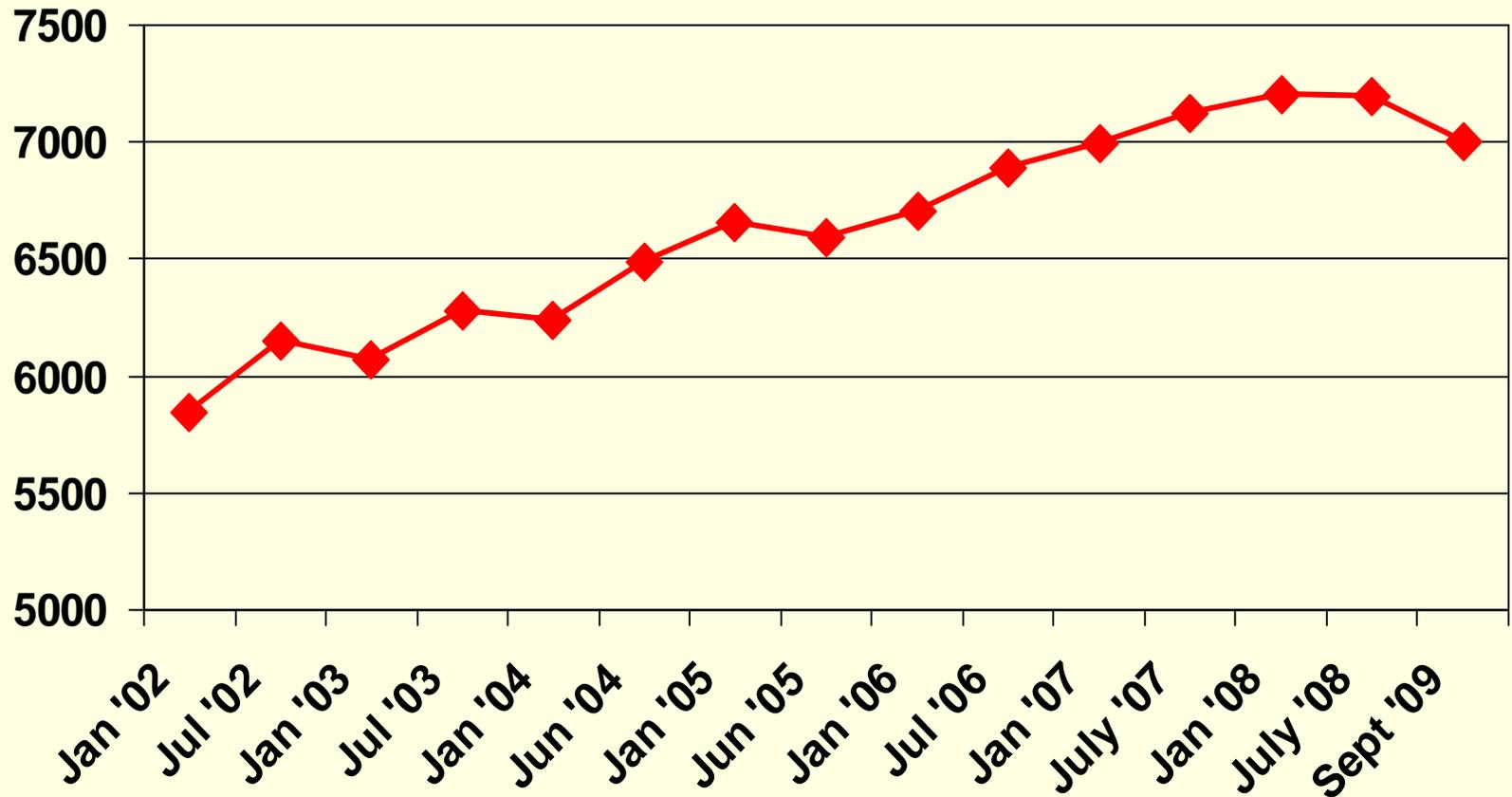
- **About 640 children at any point in time.**
 - **In previous year, about 37.5% of these children exited OOHC to permanency or for some emancipation.**
 - **Median age that entered care is 8 years old.**
 - **Median age now are 11 years old.**
 - **Median average of 3-4 moves in care.**
 - **40% were part of a sibling group also in the target group.**
 - **42.8% had reentered care at least once.**
 - **> 50% were placed in PCC homes or residential.**
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- Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009

Target Children from Families with Chronic Abuse/Neglect

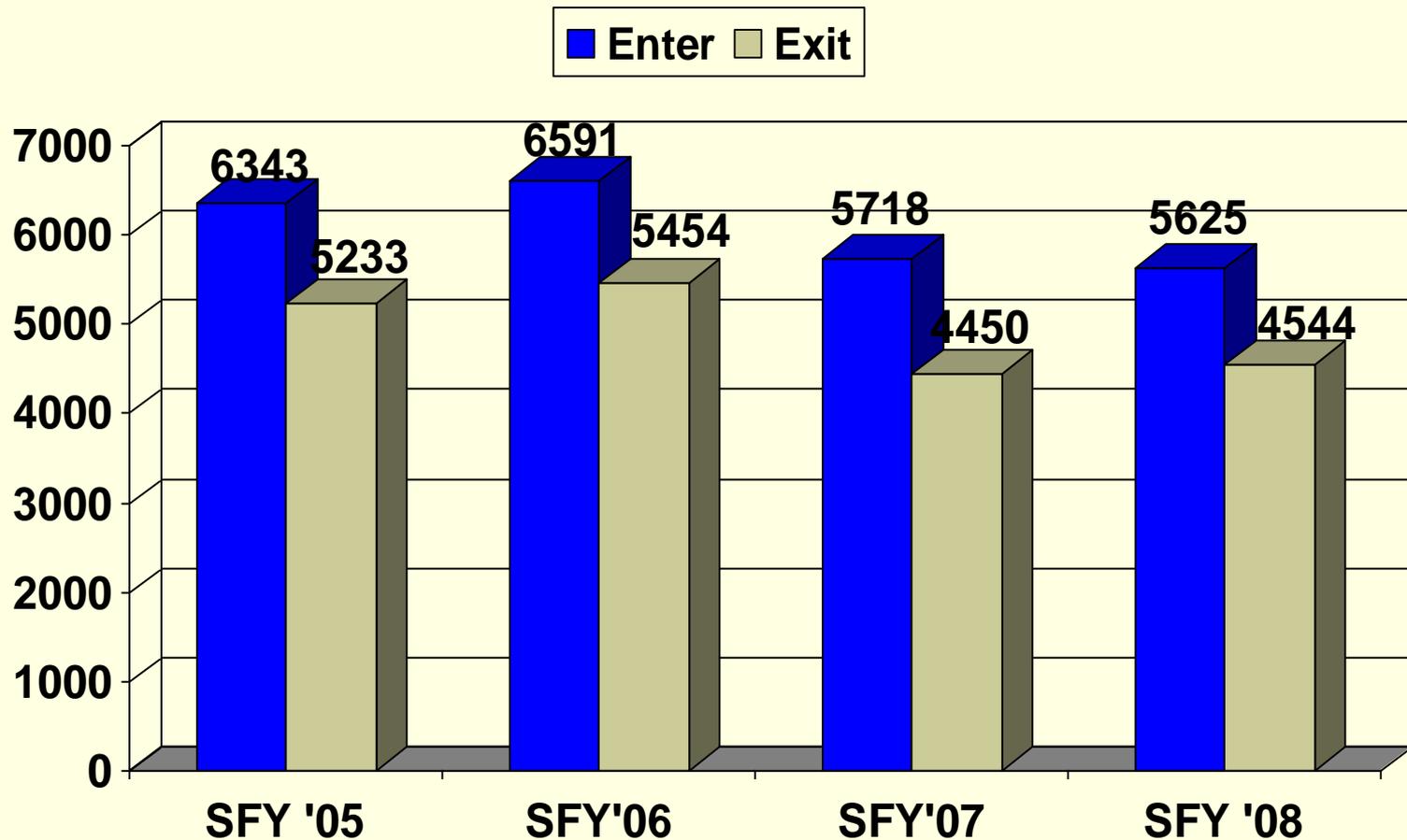
- **On average had 2.3 substantiated referrals.**
- **For 137 children (21.3%), the first substantiated referral in the family was BEFORE they were born.**
- **18% of families had another substantiated referral (adult or child) 60 days or longer AFTER the child's most recent entry to OOHC.**
- Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009

in OOHC

(Increase 28% since Jan 02)



of Children Entering and Exiting OOHC



Why These Trends?

- **Numbers in OOHC are increasing because fewer children are exiting.**
 - **These children have limited progress toward permanency in OOHC.**
 - **What to do?**
 - **Find ways to help children achieve permanency**
- **Voila! - Casey Family Programs and the Kentucky Permanency Roundtables.**

Anything Lost-Anything Gained

“Penny – or a dime -
for your thoughts”

- Adages & proverbs
- Who did you bring
with you today?





- Permanence:
 - What is It? –

Permanence: What is it? A Professional Perspective

“The highest level of physical, legal and emotional safety and security that can be attained for each individual child or youth within the context of a family relationship.”

Lauren Frey & 1st Stuart
Permanency Convening



Permanency: A Youth Perspective

They're always talking about this Permanency stuff. You know social workers. . .lawyers . . . always using these big social work terms to talk about simple things. One day one of them finally described what she meant by permanency.

After I listened to her description, which was the first time anyone ever told me what the term meant, I said, "Oh, that's what you mean? Yeah, I want permanency in my life. I don't think I ever had that! When can I get it?"

Youth in care



WHAT is Permanence?

A Youth Perspective

- PERMANENCE is **NOT** a place ~
- Permanency is a state of mind, *not a placement*;
- Permanence is having the feeling that you are **connected**,
- That there is someone *in the middle of the night* who will answer your *collect* phone call,
- Or **miss you** when you don't show up.



Permanence: What is it?

My working definition



- A parent or two – A parenting relationship with at least one adult
- Intent – a mutual understanding that this relationship is intended to last forever
- Unconditional commitment by the adult(s)
- Participation of all parties in the relationship
- Lifelong and mutual support and involvement
- Intimacy & Belonging – “My son”, “my mom”
- Status How the world views your relationships

Key Characteristics of Youth who Never Attain Permanency

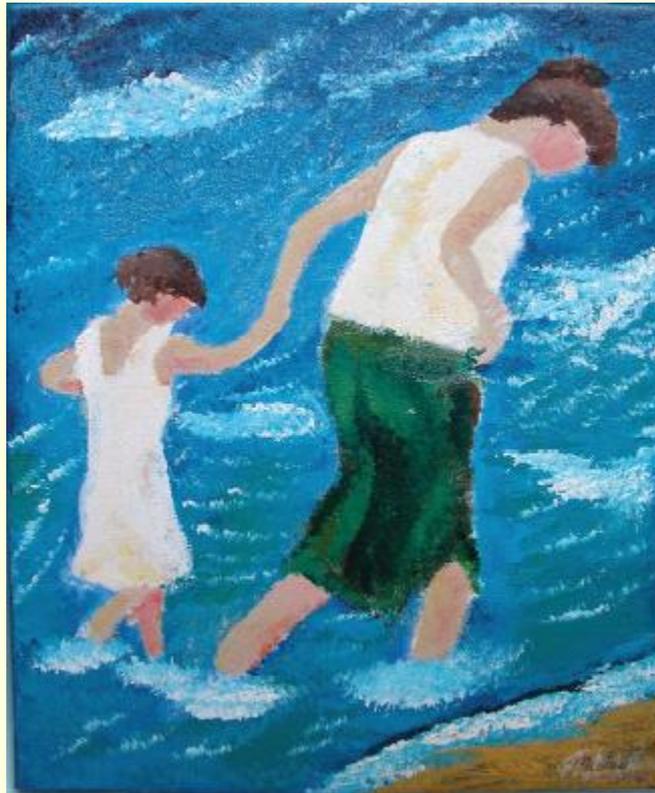
- Demographics?
- Other youth-related characteristics?
- Placement or familial factors?
- What is the single most important factor that determines whether a youth attains permanency?
- Why is this good news?



Permanence is

- **PERMANENCE IS FOR NOW** - What does permanence mean for young people preparing to leave care?
- **PERMANENCE IS FOR THE FUTURE:** What might it mean in 5,10 or 20 years?
- **PERMANENCE IS FOR ALL YOUTH:** Including those who will need adult residential care, or with a permanency plan of Emancipation
- **PERMANENCE CAN BE CREATED:**

We Can, and We Must, Do Better





- Permanence:
- Who needs it? –

Genuine Permanence:

3 Tests

- **The “Miss-me-when-I-don’t-show-up” Test**
- **The “Age 34” Test**
- **The “Hospital” Test**

STORIES-



If we understand the importance of permanence –
why can't we achieve it for all of our children
and youth?

“FAMILIES ARE NOWHERE”

HOW - Do we help move children, youth and families towards permanence?

- Get “P.O’ed” (Nancy Salyers) EVERYONE needs to be “Permanency Oriented”
- Think about how these messages get communicated
- Keep a sense of URGENCY
- Think about WHO to include
- Use team meetings as a tool in planning and decision making

I Always Thought I Was Adoptable

I always thought that I was adoptable even though I was 16 years old, but my social worker kept saying I was too old every time I asked him about it. I worked after-school at this hardware store and the guy who owned it was so kind to me. He was such a good guy and I always talked to him. I never really told him I was in foster care, but one day when we got to talking, he started to ask me a lot of questions about my family and then about life in foster care. I invited him to my case conference because my social worker said I could invite anyone who I wanted to, and at that point he asked about adoption. I was shocked at first, but it made sense. We finalized my adoption three months ago. That day was the happiest day of my life.

- *Former foster youth*



Summary of Key Points

- **No child should ever grow up in foster care** ~ Permanency is vital for healthy development and well-being in all children and youth.
- **Permanency is possible and achievable** for all Kentucky children and youth.
- **Meaningful, effective engagement** of the youth, parents, caregivers and other significant people **is the key to successful permanency** outcomes.
- **Using a team approach improves** engagement opportunities and permanency **outcomes**
- **There are skills, strategies and specific casework behaviors that,** when consistently applied, can enhance practice and improve outcomes.

KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

Kentucky Permanency Roundtables

Purpose

- **To develop a permanency action plan for each child/youth that will expedite legal permanency**
- **To stimulate thinking and learning about pathways to permanency for these and other children**
- **To identify and address barriers to expedited permanency through professional development, policy change, resource development, and the engagement of system partners**

Kentucky Permanency Roundtable Phases

- I. Welcome and overview**
- II. Present the case**
- III. Clarify and explore**
- IV. Brainstorm**
- V. Create permanency action plan**
- VI. Debrief roundtable**

5 KEY QUESTIONS

- What will it take?
- What can we try again that has been tried before?
- What can we do differently?
- What can we do concurrently?
- How can we engage the youth in developing & implementing the plan?



How is a Permanency Roundtable Different?

- Structure
- Length & depth
- Sense of urgency
- “Fresh eyes”
- Strengths-based
- Solution-focused



Roles of Roundtable Participants

Everyone-

Creative thinking that results in an effective Permanency action plan

Clinical specialists & Permanency specialists

Internal consultation

Caseworkers

Case Presentation; response to questions

Supervisors

Supplemental information; Response to questions

Permanency consultants

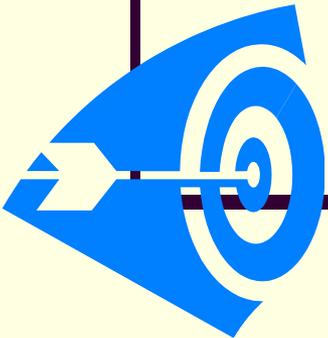
Facilitation and consultation

“KY STAFF COMMENTS”

- The roundtable is a non-threatening atmosphere
- Leave feeling very supported
- There is a share in responsibility/action plans
- A Barrier Busting opportunity; statewide & Region wide
- Very Child focused; A life long connections/supports perspective
- Thinking outside of the box
- Helps DCBS administration better understand the role of front line workers

Systemic Issues and Current Progress

Issues Identified at Debriefing
Ongoing Monitoring of Progress



KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESES

- KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESES PHASE I

- (81 cases 104 children)

- • Permanency Achieved - 33 children

-

- • New Connections - 112

-

- • New Services - 143

-

-

- KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESES PHASE II

- (81 cases 108 children)

- • Permanency Achieved - 14

-

- • New Connections - 28

-

- • New Services - 105

MOVING FORWARD ...

- **August 2010 Phase I & Phase II**
- Waiting on goal changes: 8 kids
- Waiting on TPR, children are presently residing in adoptive homes: 24 kids
- Waiting on adoption to occur: 15 kids
- On trial home visits, waiting to release custody: 11 kids

Kentucky Stories

❖ Child & Teacher

❖ Father & Siblings

❖ Supportive Father/Aunt

❖ Adult Adoption

With your help...

- Improve Partnerships
- Focusing together on outcomes
- Importance of Permanency
- Support connections
- Improve Practice