



# FCCS overview

Franklin County Children Services

*Protecting Children by Strengthening Families*



# Mission Statement

*Protecting Children by Strengthening Families*

- Vision  
Safety, permanency and well-being for every child
- Mission  
Through collaboration with families and their communities, we advocate for the safety, permanency, and well-being of each child we serve in a manner that honors family and culture.



# Quick Facts

(2015)

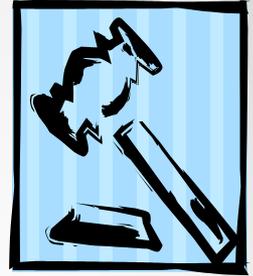
- ◎ 31,728 referrals received
- ◎ 15,345 referrals Screened Out
- ◎ 13,692 referrals Screened In
  - ◎ 11,916 referrals CA/N
  - ◎ 1,777 referrals FINS
- ◎ 2,338 families transferred for ongoing services (18%)
- ◎ 58% of youth served were VPS, 15% protective supervision, and 27%



# Operation

- Governed by Board of Directors appointed by Franklin County Commissioners
- 735 Staff
- Locations: 4071 E. Main St; 855 W. Mound St; 1919 Frank Rd
- Managed Care Providers:
  - National Youth Advocate Program
  - Permanent Family Solutions Network
- Operating Budget: \$170 Million

# Overseers of FCCS



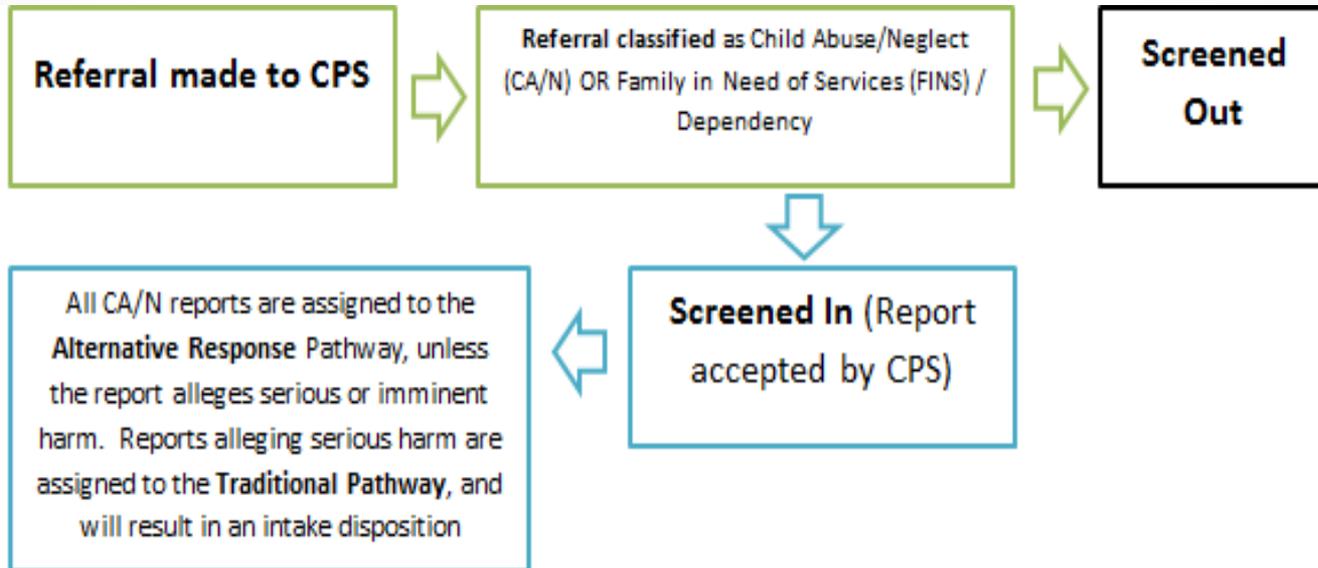
- Highly regulated by mandates of State and Federal Law
  - ORC: State law that regulates child welfare practice.
    - Defines: abuse, neglect, dependency
  - OAC: Regulates investigations, case planning, visitations.
    - State of Ohio Screening Guidelines
    - Guidelines for Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, Family in Need of Services
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)
- Fully accredited by Council on Accreditation for Families and Children
- A member of the Child Welfare League of America

# Making A Referral

- Franklin County Children Services is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Mandated reporters include licensed Social workers, counselors, therapists, etc.
- Referrals should include as much information as possible
- State of Ohio – SACWIS
- Information must be collected in order and the screener will guide you through the process.
- What happens after the referral is made?



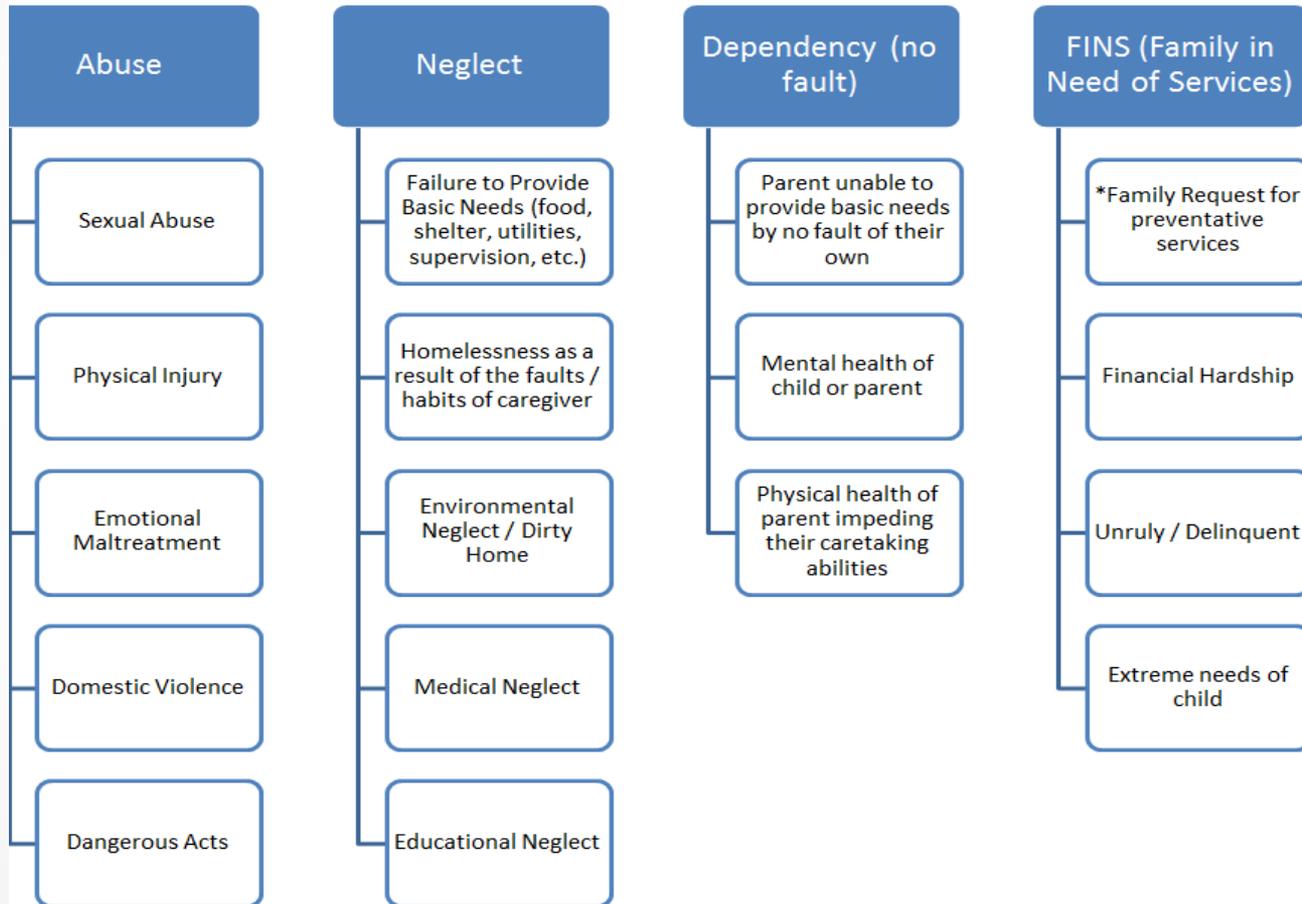
# Screening



# Screening - Differential Response

- Traditional Response
  - Always required for reports of sexual abuse, abuse resulting in serious injury, and whenever children are determined to be in serious and immediate risk of harm
  - May involve court intervention
  - Will result in a determination/finding about the allegation
- Alternative Response
  - Used when reports of abuse or neglect do not allege serious or imminent harm
  - Does not result in a determination/finding about the allegations
  - An AR case may be “pathway switched” to TR if needed to ensure child safety (i.e. court intervention, serious harm occurs)

# Screening - Case Categories



# Screening - Families in Need of Services (FINS)

- The agency may accept a referral solely to provide services:
  - To prevent homelessness or further penetration into the system
  - To support family stability, including assistance with locating housing or accessing community resources.
- Must be requested by the parent or guardian
- No allegations of abuse or neglect (and thus, no disposition or finding)

# Screening Guidelines for Neglect

## Neglected Child

ORC 2151.03

- A child abandoned by his parents
- A child who lacks parental care because of faults, or habits of the child's parent or guardian.
- Because of omission of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, the child suffers physical or mental injury or threatens to harm the child's physical or mental needs.

# Screening & Assessment Guidelines for Neglect

- **What does a neglectful, unsafe home environment look like based on FCCS standards?**
- There are several factors that go into this assessment, which are heavily guided by the State's guidelines. These include, but are not limited to:
  - The child's age and developmental status that may contribute to risk
  - Whether or not home content presents a health or safety hazard (e.g. clutter or debris are present to the point that it prevents entrance to or exit from dwelling; exposed wiring within reach of child; unstable physical structure; fire hazard; excessive or rotten food that threatens health; human/animal waste accessible in living quarters; bugs or rodents that inhabit an infant's body / bedding or are in or near food supply, etc).
  - Whether the family has the resources to meet the basic needs of the family to include shelter, utilities (especially during winter months), food, etc.

# Homelessness (Assessment)

- Where is family currently living?
- Where did the family live prior?
- What is housing plan and what is available to family?
- Does the family have friends or family that can assist temporarily/permanently?
- How are basic needs being met?
- How are children impacted by the living environment?
- What services has the family utilized?



*How does FCCS determine whether or not to remove children when a family is experiencing homelessness?*

- *Diversion efforts where families can remain together*
  - ❖ *Extended Family (short-term or long-term)*
  - ❖ *Friends (short-term or long-term)*
  - ❖ *Emergency Shelter (short-term)*
  - ❖ *Hotels (short-term, 1-2 weeks, used sparingly, with a goal to secure housing by the end of the hotel stay)*
- *Availability of resources*
  - ❖ *Does the family have **income** to support housing stability?*
- *Other options*
  - ❖ *Respite Care (short-term foster care / voluntary / no court involvement)*
  - ❖ *30-Day Voluntary Agreement for Custody (no court involvement)*
  - ❖ *Out-of-Home Safety plan (voluntary)*
  - ❖ *Legally Authorized Out of Home Placement*
    - ❖ *24-hour emergency / Officer Acceptance*
    - ❖ *Court Order*

# CAPMIS

- Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model- Interim Solution
- The model involves structured decision making by using tools to assess a child's safety, develop safety plans for children, and conduct family and reunification assessments.
- The model provides for consistent decision making from the time a child enters the system until closure.

# Safety Response

- Child is assessed to be safe
- Safety threat needs to be controlled for child to be safe:
  - In Home Safety Plan
  - Out of Home Safety Plan
  - Voluntary Agreement for Custody (short term)
  - Court Action

# Family Assessment

- The Family Assessment is a holistic assessment of the family and all household members.
- The assessment is completed within 45 days after the receipt of the referral.
- Completed once the intake caseworker has completed their assessment/investigation.

# Continuing Services

- ◎ Following Intake Process, should a family need services the case will transfer to ongoing region.
- ◎ Caseworker will be expected:
  - to involve the family throughout all the agency processes
  - develop case plan with the family
  - visitations with family
  - formally review the case every 90 days
  - provide case management services
  - provide feedback to the court

# FCCS can petition the court to authorize agency involvement in a family's life.

- The court may order custody to the agency.
- The court may order protective services be provided to the family.



# Thank You!

For the opportunity to share the role of Franklin County Children Services in the difficult task of protecting children.

Additional information can be found on our public website @

<http://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/>

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