

CHILDREN'S DIVISION PREVENTION TEAM

Meeting Families Where They Are

ENGAGE. COLLABORATE. SUPPORT.



The Missouri Prevention Program

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WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE:

ONE OUT OF TWO CHILDREN WHO ENTER FOSTER CARE WILL **NEVER** REUNITE WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE FIVE OR MORE PLACEMENTS WHILE IN FOSTER CARE HAVE A **90% CONTACT RATE** WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT (CRIMLAWPRACTITIONER.ORG).

MORE THAN HALF OF BLACK CHILDREN IN AMERICA ARE THE SUBJECT OF A CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATION BY THE AGE OF 18.

SIXTY PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHO COME INTO FOSTER CARE COME IN FOR REASONS IDENTIFIED AS NEGLECT, NOT ABUSE.

HISTORICALLY, MISSOURI HAS HAD **TWICE THE NUMBER** OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE PER CAPITA THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

*IN FY 2022, JUST **3,119** OF THE **6,349** MISSOURI CHILDREN WHO EXITED FOSTER CARE RETURNED HOME, **49%***

What trauma looks like for a child removed.....

ADDICTION RATES 7 TIMES GREATER THAN GENERAL POPULATION

MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIMES

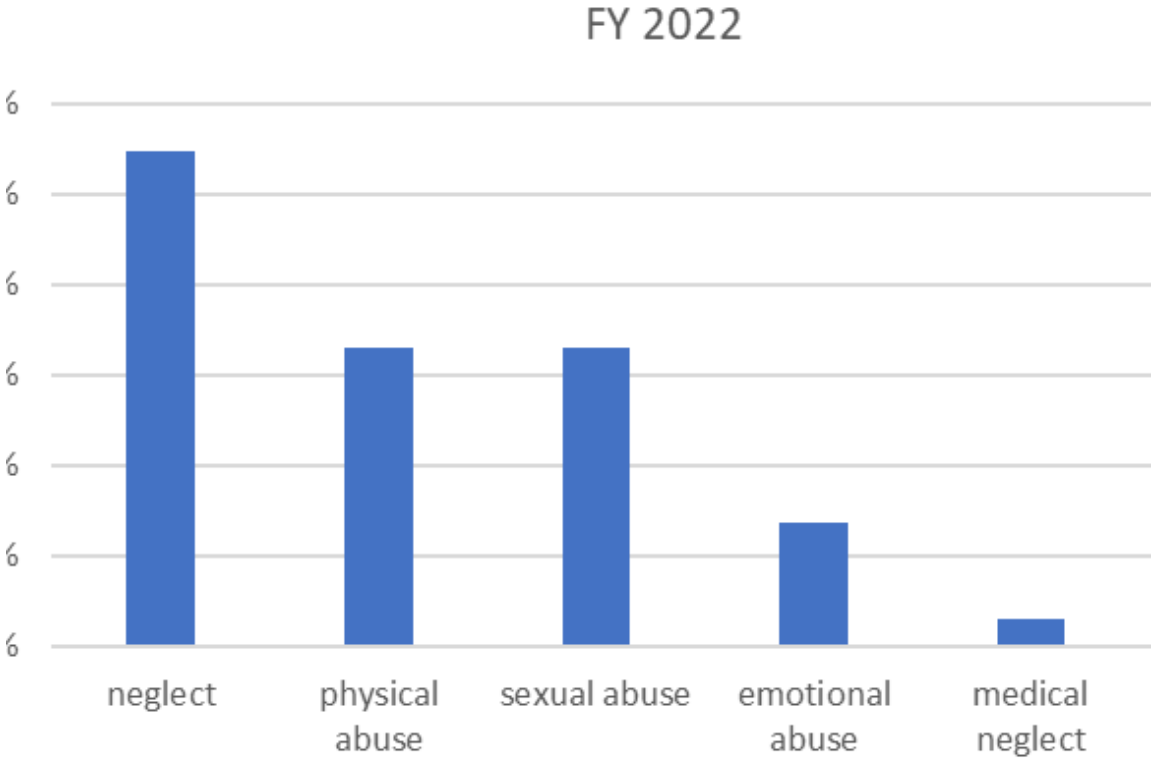
**ACADEMIC FAILURE – LESS LIKELY TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.
MUCH LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE. (1.8% COMPARED TO 23%
OF POPULATION)**

HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT

HIGHER HOMELESSNESS

**UP TO 80% OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE HAVE SIGNIFICANT
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, COMPARED WITH APPROXIMATELY 18 TO 22
PERCENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.**

CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF REMOVAL



“Highly functional child welfare systems keep children safe without removing many of them from their homes.”

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Missouri Children's Division
 Point in Time Number of Children in Foster Care
 *Based on DSS/Research Report L51 History



Reduced Children in Out of Home Care

Reduced Calls to the Hotline

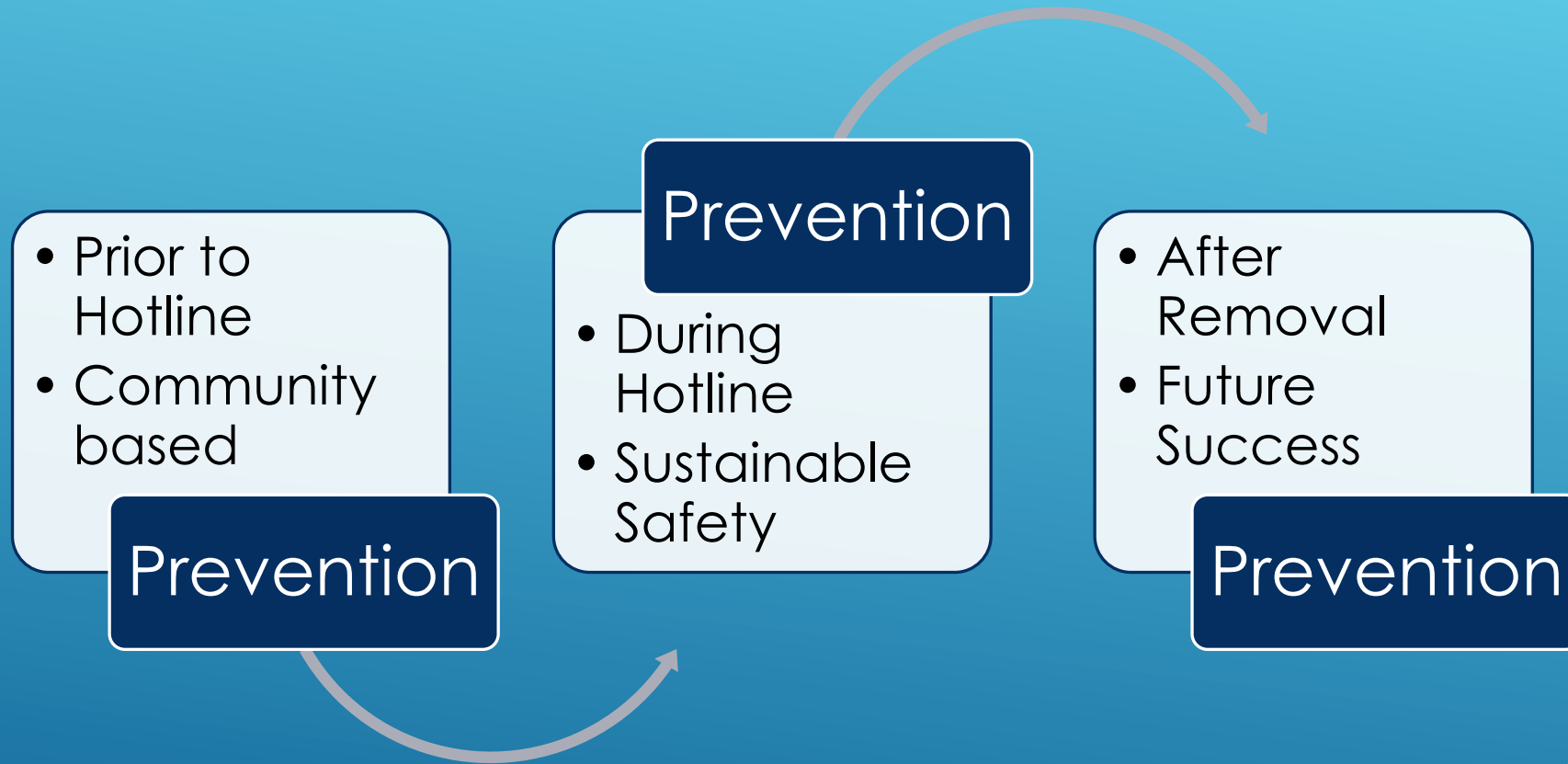
Supported Families

Connected Communities

PREVENTION
PROGRAM
GOALS AND
MEASURES

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CHILDREN'S DIVISION RESPONSE PLAN



Partner with families and communities to protect children from abuse and neglect and to assure safety, permanency and well being for Missouri's Children

HOLD ON! ARE WE FOCUSING ON SAFETY OR PREVENTION? YES!

Safe: A child can be considered safe when there are no threats to the child's safety within their household or when the caregiver's protective capacities and safety network are sufficient to manage or control the threats.

Safety should be our primary focus;

Safety Assessment is on-going—it begins at initial contact and continues throughout the life of the case;

Safety Planning with families should be as least intrusive as possible while keeping children safe. The most intrusive thing the Children's Division can do is remove a child from their home. Staff should utilize the least intrusive interventions that will manage the safety threat.

Risk: Risk is the likelihood or probability child abuse or neglect will occur or reoccur in the future.

VISION FOR PREVENTION:

- ▶ Working upstream to support families so crisis doesn't turn into a situation where a child could encounter abuse or neglect
- ▶ Strengthen Families
 - ▶ Family Preservation
 - ▶ Increase Family Functioning
 - ▶ Build Protective Capacities
- ▶ Support Communities
 - ▶ Connect Families and Communities
- ▶ Moving from a reactive system to a proactive response
- ▶ Reducing systemic trauma and building trust

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FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Children's Division understands the importance of family preservation and connection of families to their communities.

COMMUNITY

Prevention exists for families to thrive in their communities and children to be raised with their family.



COLLABORATION

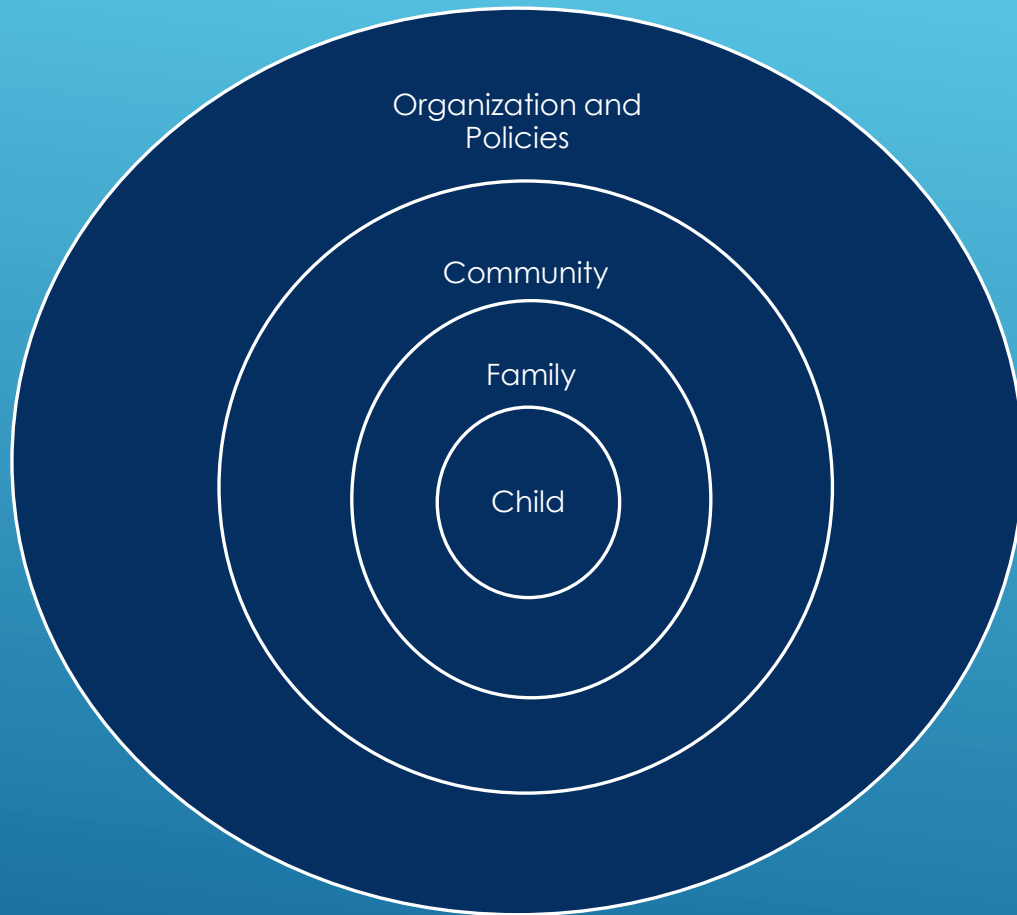
The prevention team will meet families where they are to support natural connections through engagement and collaboration within communities.

SUPPORT NETWORKS

Families will be encouraged to use their support networks and community connections.



Social-Ecological Model



Risk Factors

Risk Factor	Domain
Unmet needs	Child
Caregiver Stress	Family
Economic Stress	Family
Unmet Needs	Family
Unstable family functioning and protective factors	Family
High rates of poverty	Community
Unstable Housing	Community
Limited opportunities	Community
Services unavailable or unknown	Organizations
Policy	Policies

Separating Poverty From Neglect

- * POVERTY IS A RISK FACTOR FOR CHILD NEGLECT, BUT POVERTY DOES NOT EQUAL NEGLECT.
- * WHEN A FAMILY IS LIVING IN POVERTY, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT A CHILD IS UNSAFE OR THAT A PARENT LACKS THE ABILITY TO CARE FOR A CHILD.
- * POVERTY CAN MAKE IT MORE CHALLENGING FOR PARENTS TO MEET CERTAIN NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN.
- * MISTAKING POVERTY FOR NEGLECT CONTRIBUTES TO THE HIGH RATES OF CHILD NEGLECT CASES AND CHILD WELFARE INVOLVEMENT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING POVERTY.
- * POVERTY PRODUCES MATERIAL HARDSHIPS FOR FAMILIES. SUCH HARDSHIPS OFTEN RESULT IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING TOXIC STRESS, WHICH CAN IMPEDE CHILDREN'S COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PARENTS' CAPACITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN.
- * INCAPACITY TO PROVIDE IS NOT THE SAME AS AN UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE.

Legislative Actions Supports Prevention Efforts:

IN FY 2024, MISSOURI'S LEGISLATION PROVIDED FOR 100 ALLOCATIONS AS A NEW DECISION ITEM IN THE BUDGET.

THIS PROVISION ALLOWED THE CHILDREN'S DIVISION TO BEGIN THE WORK OF FOCUSING ON PRIMARY PREVENTION.

USING THE ALLOCATIONS

Team Decision
Making
Facilitators

Family
Centered
Service
Specialists

Primary
Prevention
Specialists

LAYERS OF PREVENTION

Primary Prevention: Providing services within the community prior to an allegation of abuse or neglect



Secondary Prevention: Targeted at Risk families receiving formal services to reduce risk. These families would have some contact with the Children's Division.



Tertiary Prevention: Services provided to families where child maltreat has or is likely to occur; intervention to keep children safely at home.

PRIMARY PREVENTION

engages to avert child maltreatment before it occurs by connecting families to community services, programs and family supports

- ▶ Works to avert child maltreatment before it occurs
 - ▶ Connecting families to community services, programs and family supports
 - ▶ Connecting with families before a hotline is even called in
 - ▶ Connecting with community services and programs to collaborate together with supporting a family
- Primary Prevention Workers in the Community
 - Schools
 - Hospitals
 - WIC
 - Community Supported programs
 - Community Engagement
 - Crisis Care
 - Contracted Service Expansion
 - Community Pathways
 - Being Developed
 - Education

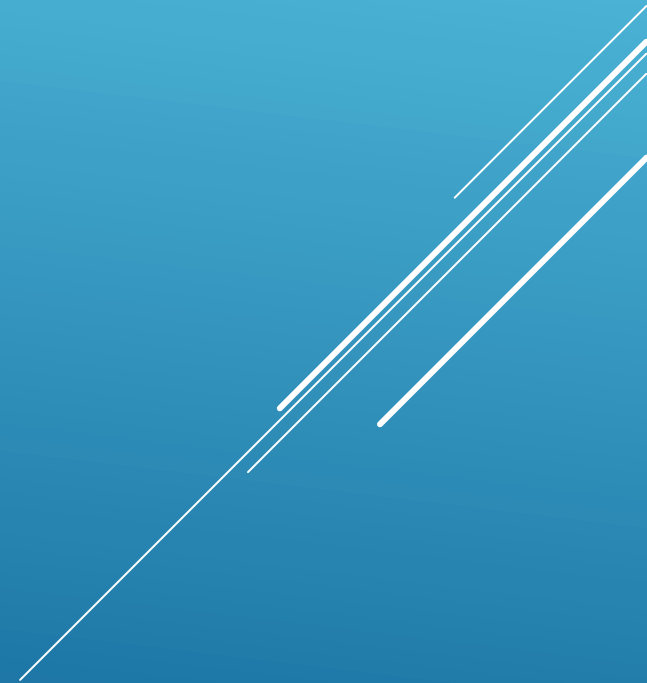
PRIMARY PREVENTION SUCCESS STORIES

SW region- He was contacted about a family that did not have a working hot water heater in the home. They were washing their clothes and themselves from the kitchen sink. The worker reached out to a faith-based organization about helping the family get a hot water heater. They committed to helping purchase one for the family to help. The faith-based organization came together for a meeting and as they were talking about this family and helping get a hot water heater, one of the participants at the meeting is a plumber and he offered to install the hot water heater for free and assist with any other plumbing needs for families. He went to the home and installed the hot water heater and the family was able to take hot showers that evening!

School success- The school reached out to the prevention staff with concerns of DV in a home. During a parent-teacher conference the school asked the mom if she would like to talk to a prevention worker from CD that might be able to provide some services for her or connect her to them. The mom was in agreement and the CD staff met her at school after the conference and provided some resources to the mom for DV and provided her contact information to her if she needed help.

One community had a need for financial assistance for a parent to take anger management and parenting classes. This prevention staff member was able to create a voucher system with a few community partners where they will sponsor these individuals who are unable to pay so that families are able to successfully work their cases without the monetary burden.

PARENT EDUCATION RESOURCES



USING CRISIS CARE IN PREVENTION

Crisis Care services are identified as short-term care for children from birth to 17 who parents/guardians are unable to provide care due to unexpected and unstable, crisis and/or emergency situations that require immediate action to remove the risk of child maltreatment.

- Crisis care overlaps different layers of prevention
- Parent Education
- On-going support services to reduce the likelihood of future child maltreatment and/or need for services

Crisis Care Process

- ▶ Competitive Bid Contract
- ▶ All services free to families
- ▶ 24-hour care of children for families facing crisis
 - ▶ Children receive educational and age-appropriate developmental activities
- ▶ Personalized Services for Families
 - ▶ Medical services
 - ▶ Food, Personal Care Items
 - ▶ Connection to Community Programs
- ▶ Walk-up services for families
- ▶ Follow-up services (exit plan)

- ▶ Current contracted facilities (7)
 - ▶ Springfield, St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, Joplin

SECONDARY PREVENTION

connects with identified at risk families after agency contact in order to prevent child maltreatment through education, treatment programs and community supports.

- Family Centered Services
 - Enhancement of program
 - Community Supported programs
 - Community Engagement
 - Connection after involvement with Children's Division
 - Home Visiting Services
 - Community Pathways
 - Being Developed
 - Education
- 

TERTIARY PREVENTION

focuses on the delivery of services to children and families after an occurrence of child maltreatment or when there is a very high risk of child maltreatment in order to prevent child removal from the home and future concerns from occurring.

- Intensive In-Home Services
- Temporary Alternative Placement Agreements
- Community Supported programs
 - Community Engagement
 - Connection after involvement with Children's Division
- Home Visiting Services
- Community Pathways
 - Being Developed
- Education

Missouri
Children

Missouri
Families

Missouri
Communities

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