

WELCOME
to the Child Welfare System



Feel free to take the
Child Welfare QUIZ
in front of you

Your Presenters

Jefferson County Systems of Care

Robin Brown (Lead Parent Partner)

Ashleigh Sedbrook (Training Coordinator)

Common Terms

Jefferson County Division of
Children, Youth & Families
(CYF)

900 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401

CYF's Vision and Mission

Vision: A community of safe & stable families

Mission: To promote the safety, well-being & permanency of children, youth and families

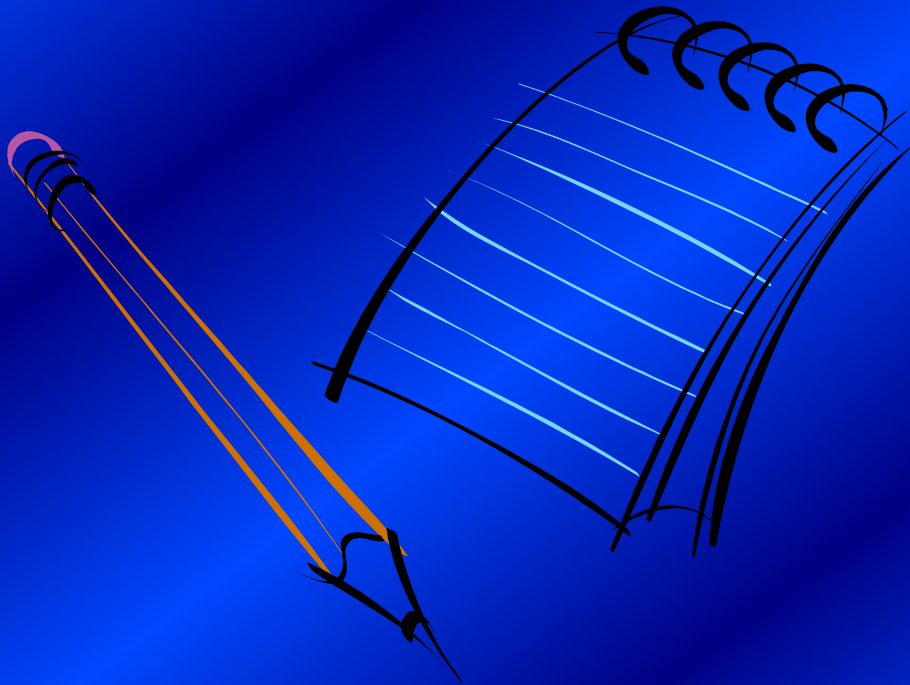


CYF's Values



- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Family Empowerment
- ◆ Cultural Competency
- ◆ Partnering
- ◆ Accountability & Evaluation

Topics Covered



- ☆ General overview of Jefferson County Division of Children, Youth & Families
- 🕒 Intake & Investigation Process
- 🕒 Records Management
- 🕒 Out-of-Home Placement
- 🕒 Court Process
- 🕒 ICWA

Child Welfare Responsibilities

- ◆ Responding to reports
- ◆ Problem Solving
- ◆ Safety & security of children
- ◆ Preventing separation of families
- ◆ Providing out-of-home care
- ◆ Permanency planning for children
- ◆ Collaborate with community partners - community safety

Types of Abuse & Neglect

- ↑ Physical Abuse
 - ↑ Neglect
 - ↑ Emotional Abuse
 - ↑ Sexual Abuse
 - ↑ Institutional Abuse or Neglect

Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect



Anyone can anonymously report
suspected abuse or neglect

Hotline (303) 271-4131

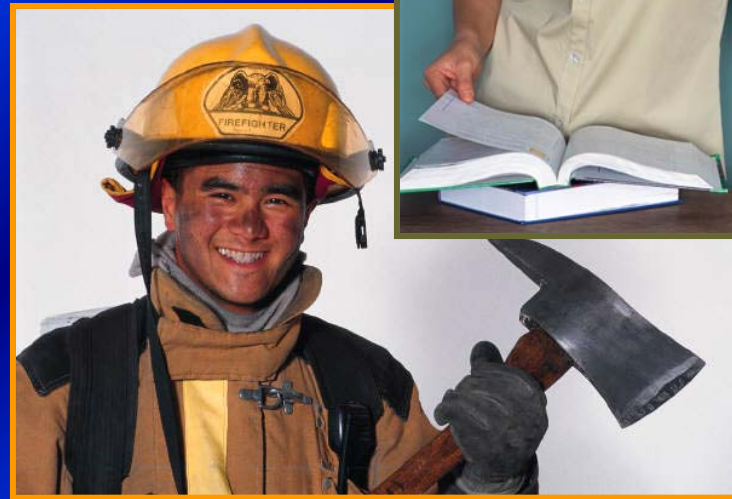
Mandatory Reporting Laws

- ◆ CRS 19-3-304 Mandated reporters (Any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child is abused.)
 - ◆ Physician or Surgeon
 - ◆ Medical examiner or Coroner
 - ◆ Osteopath
 - ◆ Chiropractor
 - ◆ Registered nurse or licensed practical nurse
 - ◆ Christian Science practitioner
 - ◆ Public or private school official or employee
 - ◆ Mental health professional
 - ◆ Peace officer
 - ◆ Registered dietician
 - ◆ Licensed professional counselors
 - ◆ Licensed marriage & family therapists
 - ◆ Unlicensed psychotherapists



Mandatory Reporting Laws

- ◆ Child health associate
- ◆ Dentist
- ◆ Optometrist
- ◆ Chiropodist or Podiatrist
- ◆ Hospital personnel
- ◆ Social Workers
- ◆ Dental hygienist
- ◆ Veterinarian
- ◆ Pharmacist
- ◆ Psychologist
- ◆ Firefighter
- ◆ Victim's advocate
- ◆ Clergy members
- ◆ Physical therapist
- ◆ Worker in the state department of human services
- ◆ Commercial film & photographic print processor



Failure to Report...

1. Criminal Action (Class 3 misdemeanor)
2. May receive a \$50-\$750 fine and/or 6 months in jail
3. Civil Action
4. May lose license

Who Investigates CAN?

- ◆ CW Intake Caseworker
- ◆ Law Enforcement (not always involved)
- ◆ Child Advocate for Sexual Abuse Cases



Response Times

- ◆ Depending on the report, different responses:
 - ◆ Immediate or same day response (Immediately)
 - ◆ Follow up investigations
 - ◆ Up to the end of 3rd Calendar day
 - ◆ Within 5 Working days
 - ◆ **I&R** - Information and Referral (Follow up phone call or letter to family)

Type of Response

Type of response is dependent upon:

- ◆ Severity of report
- ◆ Level of danger for the child
- ◆ Availability of formal & informal supports

Possible Outcomes of CW Investigation

- ◆ No evidence of abuse or neglect

unfounded

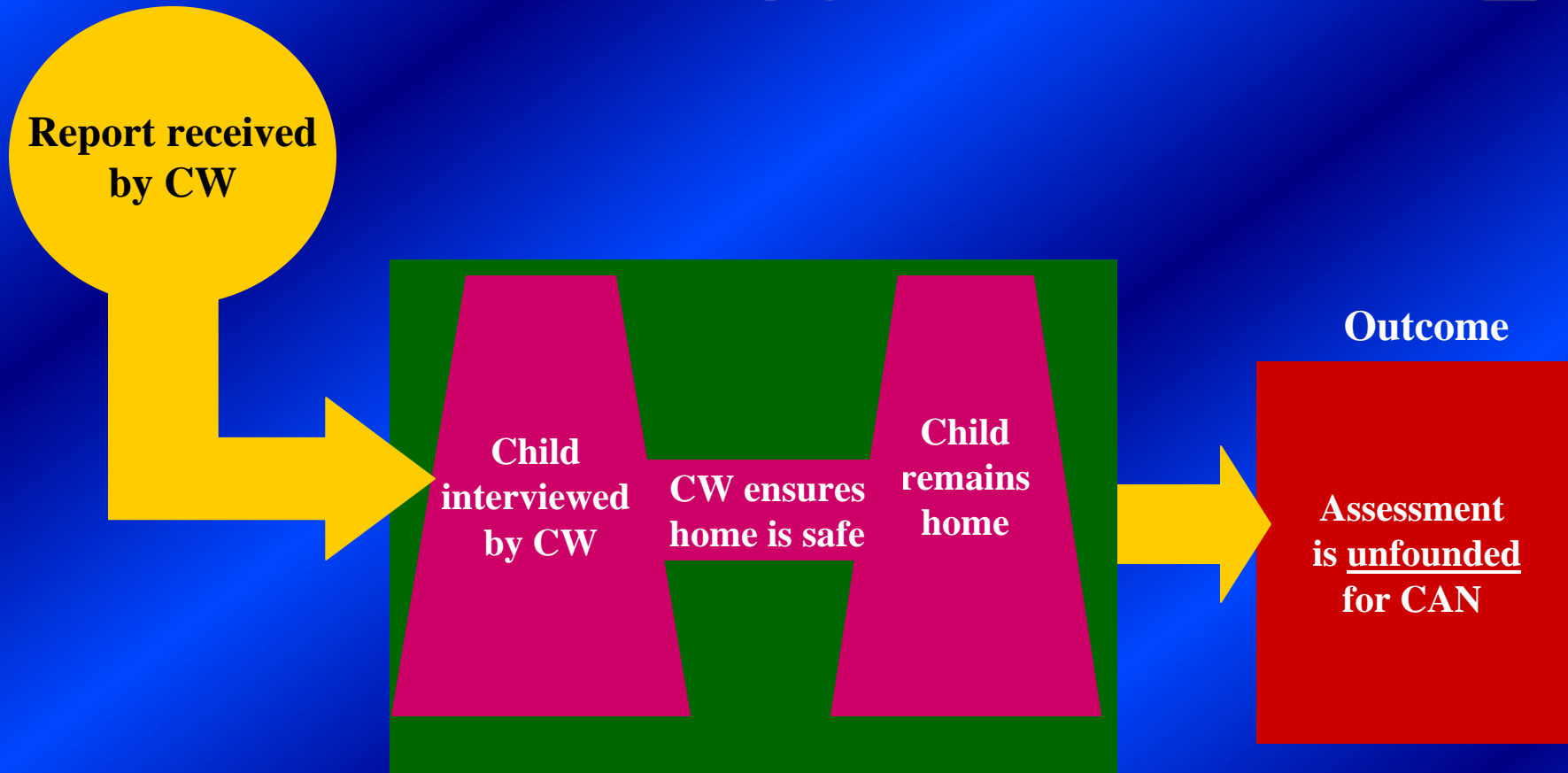
- ◆ Evidence of abuse or neglect

founded

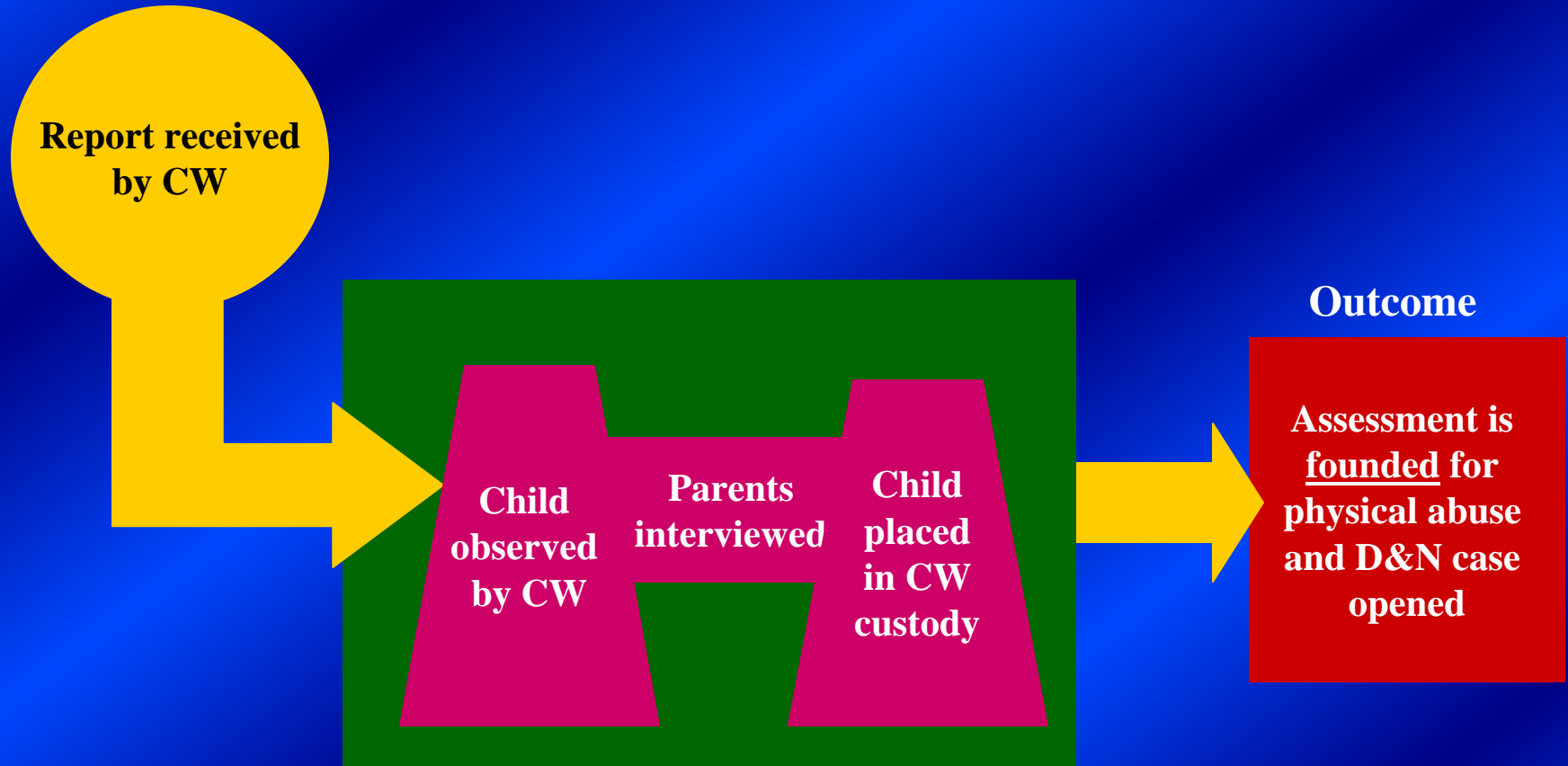
- ◆ Reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect

inconclusive

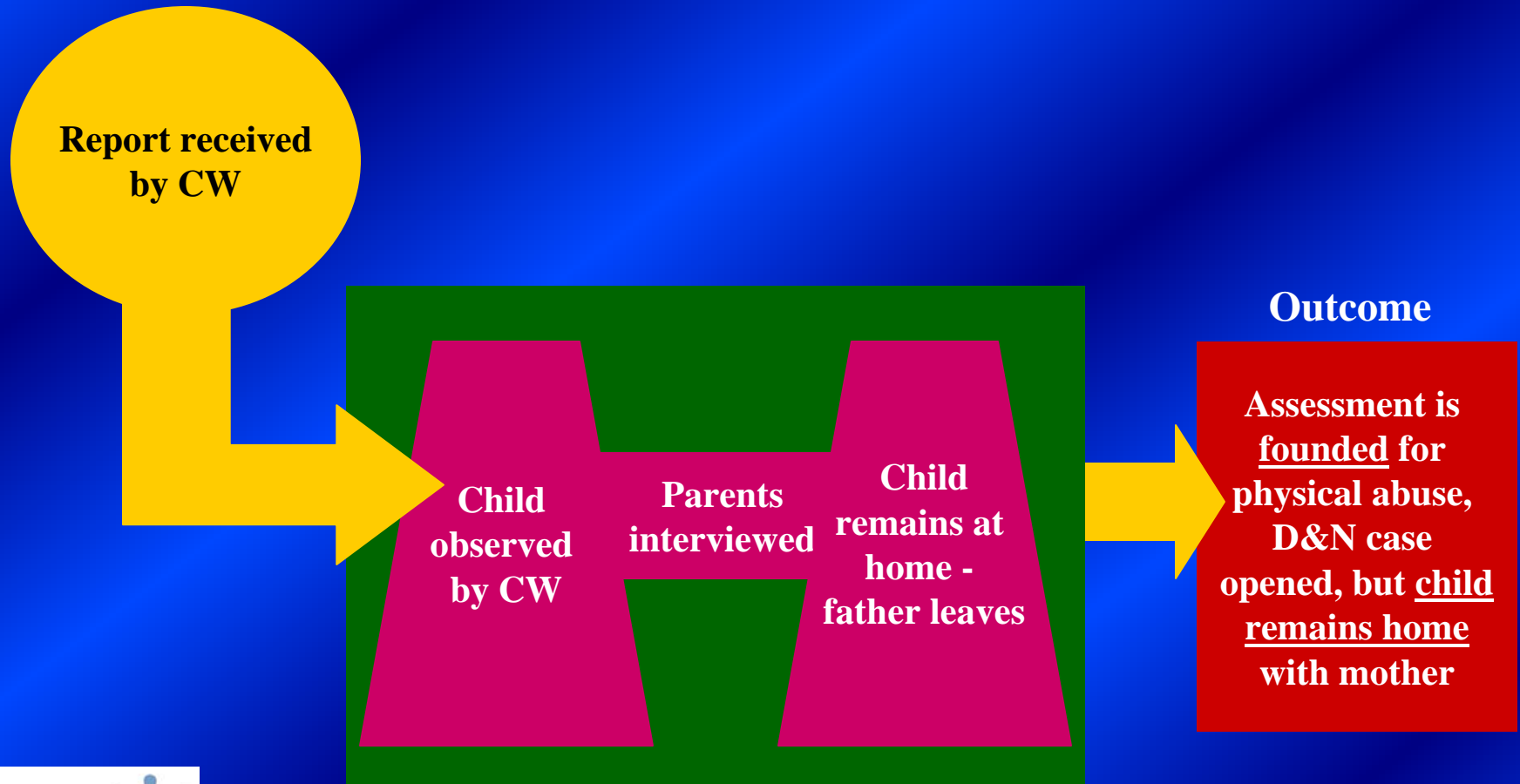
Exploring the Investigation Process



Exploring the Investigation Process



Exploring the Investigation Process



Exploring the Investigation process:

Report received
by CW

Child
interviewed
by CW

Mother
interviewed by
CW

Child
remains
in
home

Outcome

Assessment is
inconclusive for
physical abuse.
Assessment
closed

Exploring the Investigation process:



3rd Report...

Investigation will occur if:

- ◆ Information to locate the alleged victim, (under the age of 18)
- ◆ Occurs within a 2 year period
- ◆ 2 previous reports were not investigated



Possible Outcomes

1. Assessment closed
2. Community referral
3. Voluntary services
 - ◆ through EIS (Early Intervention Services)
 - ◆ FIS (Family Intervention Services)
 - ◆ Contract Service Provider (Savio House)

Possible Outcomes (cont...)

4. Court case is filed, children remain home with Emergency Protective Orders
5. Court case is filed, children removed from home

What if children are removed?

- ◆ Who has authority to removed children from their parents home?
- ◆ CW Caseworker **does not** have authority to remove child from home
- ◆ Law Enforcement or Judge/Magistrate
 - ◆ If there is a police hold there will be a court hearing within 48 hours
 - ◆ If there is a court hold there will be a court hearing within 72 hours

Who determines placement?

◆ TDM (Team Decision Making Meeting)

- ◆ Risk of Removal
- ◆ Changes in Placement or level of care
- ◆ Return Home

Who attends TDM's?

- ☞ Parents
- ☞ Children (if appropriate)
- ☞ Caseworker
- ☞ Community members
- ☞ Friends & Family
- ☞ Treatment providers

People Involved in Court Process

- ◆ Magistrate/Judge
- ◆ CW Caseworker (Intake/Ongoing)
- ◆ Parent(s)
- ◆ Attorneys
- ◆ Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)
- ◆ Probation Officer
- ◆ Child (If Delinquency case)
- ◆ Special Respondent
- ◆ Placement Provider
- ◆ Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)



2 Kinds of Court Hearings

Dependency & Neglect
Hearing (D&N)



Delinquency Hearing

The Court Process



Temporary Custody Hearing (TPC)

Adjudicatory Hearing (First Hearing)

Adjudicatory Trial

Dispositional Hearing (Treatment Plan Hearing)

Review Hearing

Permanency Hearing

Termination Hearing

Temporary Custody Hearing (TPC)

- ◆ Determines custody of the child
- ◆ ICWA determined

The case is transferred from the Intake Caseworker to the Ongoing Caseworker at this hearing

Adjudicatory Hearing (First Hearing)

- ◆ Determine whether abuse or neglect has occurred
- ◆ Parents advised of their rights and consequences
- ◆ Parents enter **admission** or **denial** of the petition
- ◆ Children adjudicated dependent and/or neglected

Dispositional Hearing (Treatment Plan Hearing)

- ◆ Treatment Plan (**Family Services Plan**) is approved and ordered
- ◆ Parents are court ordered to comply with the treatment plan.

Review Hearing

- ◆ Determines whether child is safe & doing well at current placement
- ◆ Reviews the treatment plan and progress by all parties

Permanency Hearing

Determine child's permanent placement

- ◆ Remain Home
- ◆ Return Home
- ◆ Allocation of Parental Rights & Responsibilities
- ◆ Adoption (non-relative)
- ◆ Emancipation

Termination Hearing

- ◆ Determine if parents rights will be terminated
- ◆ If parents rights are terminated, child is then free for adoption

What is an FSP?

Family Services Plan

- ◆ Child & Family strengths and needs
- ◆ Child & Family goals
- ◆ Actions to be taken by the family and CW worker
- ◆ Timeline for working on needs and goals

Once developed, treatment plans should be reviewed every 3- 6 months - Review Hearing

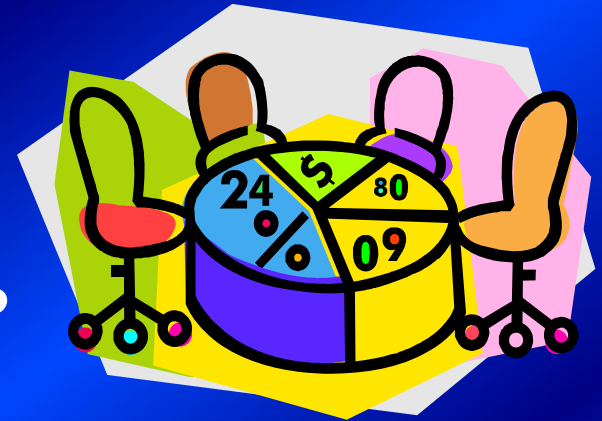
What's IN an FSP?

- ◆ Substance abuse treatment
- ◆ Domestic Violence treatment
- ◆ Mental Health Treatment
- ◆ Visits with children
- ◆ Ongoing contact with caseworker

Each FSP is individualized and may contain other services such as housing, developmental disability resources, etc.

Who creates the FSP?

- ◆ People involved with developing the FSP:
 - ◆ parent(s)
 - ◆ caseworker
 - ◆ children (age 12+)
 - ◆ other members involved with family
 - ◆ foster parents
- ◆ A family can have more than 1 FSP



Out-Of-Home Placement Services

- ◆ Kinship Care (placement with relatives)
- ◆ Emergency Shelter
- ◆ Foster Family
- ◆ Therapeutic Foster Home
- ◆ Group Home
- ◆ Residential Treatment Center
- ◆ Independent Living Arrangement

If children are placed...

If possible, siblings will be placed together



Parent/Child Visitation

- ◆ Parents and children visit together when children are placed out of the home

Type of visits:

- Therapeutic (most intensive & restrictive)
- Supervised
- Monitored
- Unsupervised (least restrictive)



Is there a fee associated with placements?

- ◆ If a child is removed from home and placed in a government funded or privately licensed home/living facility
- ◆ then the Court generates a referral to Child Support Enforcement.
- ◆ This generates a **fee assessment** that the parent must pay to Jefferson County

Working with American Indian Families

- ◆ Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Federal law for recognized American Indian tribes that all child welfare agencies must follow
- ◆ ICWA gives American Indian tribes the right to be involved in decisions relating to the placement of American Indian children

Working with American Indian Families

- ◆ Caseworker should be notified *immediately* if family is a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe
- ◆ County Attorney - responsible for notifying the tribe of the current situation

Case Closure

- ◆ Reunification
- ◆ Allocation of Parental Rights & Responsibilities
- ◆ Relinquishment
- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Independent Living





THANK YOU



Robin Brown
Ashleigh Sedbrook