Child Protective Services Caseworker

CCAO Second Wednesdays
October 12, 2016
Caseworkers Are First Responders
Decision Points

Referrals
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Dependency

Screening
- Screen in
- Screen out

Approach
- Screening Assessment
- Ongoing services

Goals
- Safety
- Permanency
- Wellbeing

Permanency
- Reunification with birth family
- Legal custody to kin
- Adoption

Intervention
- Voluntary
- Courts
- Law enforcement

Disposition
- Unsubstantiated
- Indicated
- Substantiated

Placement
- In-home
- Kinship
- Substitute care
  (foster family, group home, residential treatment)

Custody
- Temporary
- Permanent
- Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
Changes in Child Protection

• SACWIS (Information System)
• CAPMIS (Case Planning Tool)
• Differential Response
• Budget cuts
  – Opioid epidemic
  – Multi-system youth
Poll Question #1

What size county do you live in?

• Small
• Medium
• Large
• Metro
Ohio’s Opioid Epidemic

Of children taken into custody in 2015:

- **50%** have parental drug use identified at the time of removal
  - **57%** with parental drug use have parents who use opiates
  - **28%** have parents who use opiates including heroin
Multi-System Youth

• Tend to be dependency/FINS cases – may not come in because of abuse or neglect

• DD, custody relinquishment, juvenile justice diversion

• Joint Legislative Committee has made recommendations that PCSAO supports
Child Protection By the Numbers

Assessment

- 250,000+ Reports of child abuse or neglect
- 100,139 Screened-in reports assessed by workers
- 21,029 Alternative Response
- 79,110 Traditional Response
Child Protection By the Numbers

Custody

12,679
Children in out-of-home care

6 in 10
Youth in agency custody for reasons other than abuse/neglect
Child Protection By the Numbers

Permanency

- 7,555 Children reunified with birth families
- 835 Emancipated, or "aged out," of care before finding permanency
- 2,519 Children available for adoption
- 1,300 Children adopted
Poll Question #2

Does your county have a children services levy?

• Yes
• No
• Not sure
A Day in the Life
Poll Question #3

What has been your contact with your local children services agency to date?

• Visited for a tour/event
• Rode along with caseworker
• Haven’t been yet
What do agencies need?

- Sustainable, adequate financial resources
- Well-trained, competent workforce
- Community support
- Strong leadership
- Rigorous practice model
- Manageable caseload sizes
State/Local Share of Funding

National
- Federal: 46%
- State: 43%
- Local: 11%

Ohio
- Federal: 39%
- State: 9%
- Local: 52%
Children in Custody – 2010-2016

19% since 2009, largely due to opiates epidemic
State Funding for Family and Children Services, SFY 2008-2016

State Family and Children Services Dollars

-26%  17%

17% In state funding. $93m lost since SFY 2009
Poll Question #4

Has the agency director come before you to request additional funds for placement costs because local dollars have run out?

• Yes
• No
Workforce Challenges

• Burnout and secondary trauma
• High caseloads
• Economy & competition: managed care
Survey: Caseload Perceptions

Ave. 160 hours available/month
- 48 hours noncasework-related
- 5 hours waiting in court
- 20 hours travel
- 40 hours SACWIS case mngt.
- **20 hours other paperwork**

= 27 hours/month direct casework*

*Meeting with families, connecting to services
Workload Study: Dynamic System

• Demand level vs. complexity
• Monthly fluctuations in demand
• In any given month, caseworkers spend 75% of their time on 35% of their caseload . . .
• . . . and only 25% of their time on 65% of their caseload.
Why is caseload size important?

- Better outcomes for kids, families
- Satisfied workers, improved retention
- Federal measures and potential penalties
Credentials & Requirements

• Bachelor’s degree
• 102 hours of pre-service core training
• 36 hours of training annually
Caseworker Compensation

• Median: $14-$19/hour
• Eligibility referral specialist: $14-$18/hour
• Clerical supervisor: $19-$25/hour
Turnover

• Costly: $54,000 estimated cost of worker leaving agency
• Affects timely assessments, visits, services
• Number one reason why children linger in foster care
Economic Impact of Child Abuse

**ANNUAL MEDICAL COSTS FOR SURVIVORS**

- **SEXUAL ABUSE**: 16%
- **PHYSICAL ABUSE**: 22%
- **BOTH TYPES OF ABUSE**: 36%

**MORE**

**SURVIVORS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS LIKELY TO OWN:**
- House
- Car
- Stocks

**LIFETIME COSTS FOR SURVIVORS OF NONFATAL CHILD MALTREATMENT**

- **$144,360** PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES
- **$32,648** CHILDHOOD HEALTHCARE
- **$10,530** ADULT MEDICAL COSTS
- **$7,999** SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS
- **$7,728** CHILD WELFARE COSTS
- **$6,747** CRIMINAL JUSTICE COSTS

**$210,012**

**$124,000,000,000** = TOTAL LIFETIME ECONOMIC BURDEN FROM NONFATAL AND FATAL CHILD MALTREATMENT IN 2008
Resources & Opportunities

- PCSAO: www.pcsao.org | 614-224-5802
- Your local agency: Schedule a tour or ridealong
- “First responders”
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