



Women Leaders In State Agencies

State Service Benefitting Women and Girls Post Pandemic



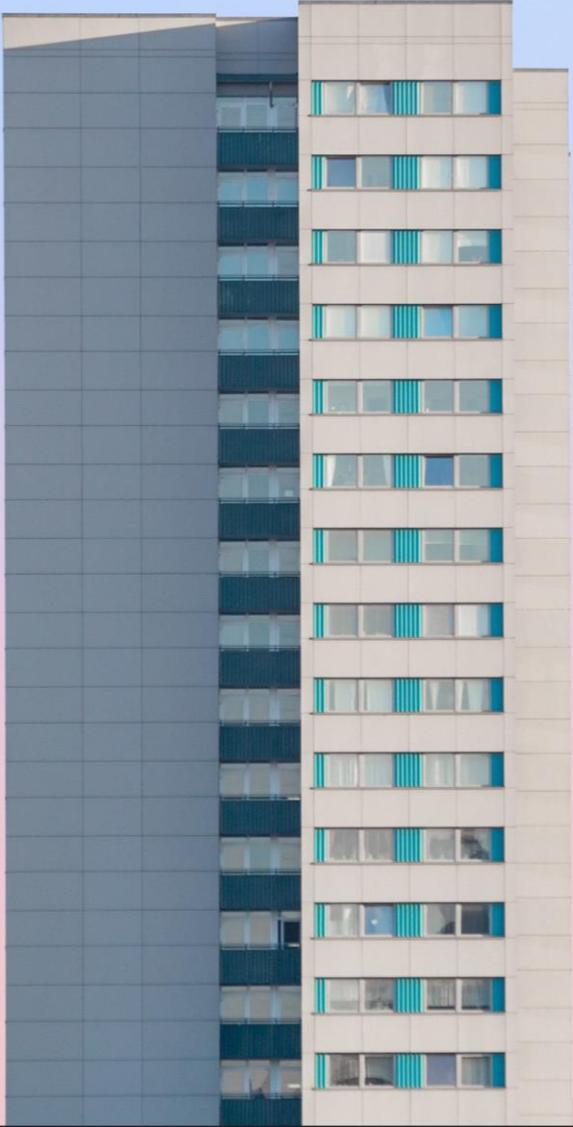
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DCF Statutory Mandates Established under CGS Section 17a-2

- ❖ Child Protective Services
- ❖ Prevention
- ❖ Lead state agency for children's behavioral health services
 - ❖ Mental health services
 - ❖ Substance use disorders
 - ❖ Suicide prevention
 - ❖ Juvenile justice diversion
- ❖ All children under age 18
- ❖ Children in foster care at age 18 can voluntarily remain in DCF care until the age of 21 and continue to receive services and support



DCF Offices and Facilities

- ❖ Six Regions/14 Offices
- ❖ Solnit North- PRTF
- ❖ Solnit South- PRTF
- ❖ Solnit Hospital
- ❖ Central Office
- ❖ Wilderness School



DCF AT A GLANCE

2800 Employees (predominately female staff and leadership)

\$800,000,000 budget

An average of 57,000 reports received each year

3100 children in placement-29% decrease (includes 350 youth over 18)



Mission & Strategic Goals

Values and Principles



Racial Equity and Justice All services will be measured and evaluated with a health equity and racial justice perspective with the explicit intent of ultimately eliminating disparities and injustice.



Culturally & linguistically appropriate services

will reflect the cultural, racial, ethnic, gender and linguistic diversity of populations served



Intentional focus on LGBTQIA+ youth needs

...facilitate access to and utilization of appropriate services and supports to eliminate disparities in clinical health care.

Full System Integration With Safety and Risk



Seven Key Performance Indicators

DCF Operations – key results



What are we aiming to deliver for children & families?

What are our aspirational targets?

1

Children are able to live safely with their families

>70% of DCF children are served in their own home

2

Children will live with relatives, kin, or someone they know

For children who cannot stay in their own home, >70% will be in kinship or relative care

3

Children will live with a family

>90% of children in care will be in a home setting; with at least 2.5 beds available per child coming into care

4

Children will be in congregate care settings rarely, and briefly

<10% of children in care will be in congregate settings; with average length of stay of <60 days

5

Children will experience timely permanency

>60% of children in care will achieve permanency within 12 months

6

Children in care will be better off – healthy, safe, smart & strong

>90% of children in care will have their needs met on medical/dental, academic achievement, mental health
<2% will experience repeat maltreatment

7

Youth who age out will be prepared for success

Of children who age out of DCF: >85% will graduate from high school, >60% will be employed or enrolled in post secondary education, >95% will have a defined positive adult in their life, <5% will go into homelessness



What Did We Learned From The Pandemic?



Decreased Surveillance and Increased Support is Needed

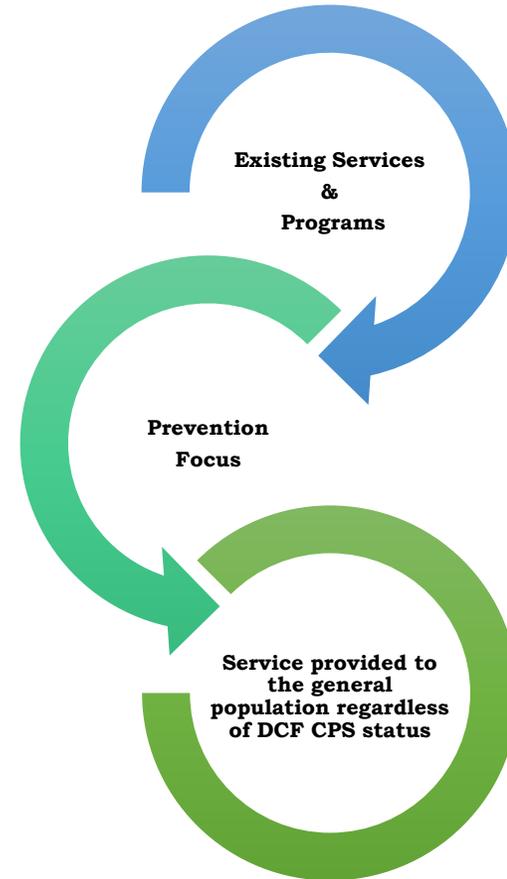
Child Protection and Child Welfare Services Are Needed

Partnership Is Essential

Families Are Resilient



DCF-Focused Alignment



MY DCF JOURNEY and Advice

**Our prime purpose in
this life is to help others.
And if you can't help
them, at least don't hurt
them.**

Dalai Lama
veganposters.com



NAGARAJAN KANNA
Photography

“

We are grateful for and celebrate our resilience, and we commit ourselves to calling out the systems that forced (us) to be resilient in the first place.

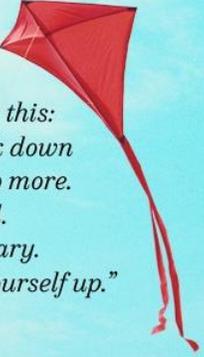
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https://assets.website-files.com/60a6942819ce8053cefd0947/60f6b1eba474362514093f96_Away%20From%20Home%20-%20Report.pdf

Think Of Us

<https://www.casey.org/group-placement-impacts/>

<https://www.childrensrights.org/familiesoverfacilitiesreport>



*“What I know for sure is this:
You are built not to shrink down
to less, but to blossom into more.
To be more splendid.
To be more extraordinary.
To use every moment to fill yourself up.”*

 Oprah



Girl
power

“She Believed She Could So She Did”
