



TECHNOLOGY IN CHILD WELFARE

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FOSTER CARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - AUGUST 26, 2020



OVERVIEW



EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS



DCF IT INITIATIVES



DATA COLLECTION



COMPREHENSIVE CHILD
WELFARE INFORMATION
SYSTEM (CCWIS)



BARRIERS TO
INFORMATION SHARING



LOOKING AHEAD



EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- DCF Child Welfare programming, including foster care and adoption, is supported by a collection of IT systems and platforms
- The primary federal reporting system, FACTS, is based on 1980s mainframe technology and was developed prior to the advent of the internet
- Data management complicated by the fact that foster care case management grantees utilize their own case management systems



EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- DCF uses 7 major information systems to support foster care and adoption
- In addition to the systems on the following slides there are approximately twenty other systems staff have created to meet management and reporting needs



Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS)

- Major federal reporting information for many programs, including foster care and adoption

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EXISTING
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS



Child Care Licensing and Registration System (CLARIS)

- System of record for both the child care licensing and the foster care and residential facilities program

Carematch

- Placement management system implemented in 2019; tracks all placements across the state and matches youth to potential placements based on their unique needs

**EXISTING
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS**



EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Kansas Eligibility and Enforcement System (KEES)

- Maintains eligibility, childcare assistance information and some payments for Independent Living programs

Kansas Initiative Decision Support System (KIDS)

- Maintains DCF assessment information and may be accessed by child welfare provider for that assessment information



EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)

- Maintains healthcare information for foster youth

Statewide Contractor Rate Information and Payment Tracking (SCRIPTS)

- Maintains payment issuances to grantees and placements



- DCF collects robust data for child welfare programs
- Data used for federal reporting, analysis for program/policy improvement, and sharing with public/stakeholders
- Much of this data is posted online in the form of monthly reports at:
<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/PPSreports.aspx>
- Since 2019 DCF has also collected and published daily data on AWOL youth available here:
<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/Agency/YRR/Pages/default.aspx>

DATA COLLECTION



BARRIERS TO INFORMATION SHARING

- Range from issues as simple as being unable to check a child's eligibility for a certain program to the inability to share aggregate data for greater analysis
- Various systems not designed to interface with one another
- The design and number of systems creates redundant data entry – the same information about a child must be entered 3-4 times



BARRIERS TO INFORMATION SHARING

- Poor data processing support has been a challenge to manage and mitigate in program management
- Requires significant administrative resources and time to reconcile when data is needing to be pulled and reported
- Confidentiality requirements in state law, federal law and HIPAA restrict the information DCF can share with stakeholders
- Lack of a DCF case management system has impacted foster care case management grantees and forced them to maintain their own systems parallel to DCF



OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO INFORMATION SHARING

- DCF engaging stakeholders to find new and innovative ways to share information
 - Ex: Foster Care Report Card
- DCF has entered into a data sharing agreement with Wichita law enforcement to allow their officers to access child welfare information when visiting a home in the community
- IT initiatives underway to update information sharing infrastructure



DCF IT INITIATIVES

- 1 Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) Planning
- 2 Data Center as a Service (DCaaS)
- 3 National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) Enhancements
- 4 Amazon Connect



COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (CCWIS)

- In 2016 the Administration for Children and Families issued new regulations for child welfare information systems
- The new regulations gave states the option to create a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)
- CCWIS was created to help modernize child welfare systems and allow states to better customize their system to their specific needs



CCWIS

- Kansas began pursuing CCWIS in 2018
- The 2018 and 2019 legislatures appropriated funding for the planning phase of CCWIS for Kansas, which is now underway
- Public Consulting Group was awarded the RFP for an 18 month planning effort



- 2020 legislature appropriated \$2 million SGF for CCWIS development
- Federal partners matched dollar for dollar for a total of \$4 million AF
- System development and implementation will occur in phases in FY 2022 – FY 2025
- Likely that DCF will need additional funding for design, development, and implementation

CCWIS

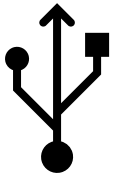


CCWIS

- CCWIS will reduce redundant data entry and create fewer systems of record by consolidating five existing systems into one
- CCWIS will help with efficiencies in all aspects of child welfare: taking reports, screening reports, case assignment, investigation, and case management
- These efficiencies will in turn help with case load management, worker retention, job satisfaction, and child safety



LOOKING AHEAD



Continue partnership with legislature to implement CCWIS in Kansas and modernize our state's child welfare system



DCF to continue to pursue projects that empower staff, increase client access to services, and keep children safe

QUESTIONS?

