CO-FACILITATORS

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Today’s Speakers

David Hall
National Foster Care Youth & Alumni Policy Council

Kristen Rudlang-Perman
Casey Family Programs

Linda Bass
KVC Kansas

Yvonne Humenay Roberts
Casey Family Programs
QUESTION:
What is your role?

ANSWER (please choose one)
- Direct service staff
- Administrator
- Court staff
- Researcher
- Other – (Please indicate in the Question section)
HOW I COULD HAVE SUSTAINED PERMANENCY AND PREVENTED RE-ENTRY
WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL DATA TELL US ABOUT RE-ENTRY?

Kristen Rudlang-Perman
Casey Family Programs
Glossary of Terms

- **Re-entry**
  
  *Children who exit to legal permanency (reunification with parents or other relatives and guardianship) and return to care.*

- **Sustained Permanency**
  
  *The continuing stability, safety, and well-being for children and youth who have moved from the temporary custody of the child welfare system into a permanent legal arrangement with committed caregivers.*
What we’ll learn about re-entry from the data…

- How do you measure re-entry?
- What are the national trends?
- Who re-enters….and when….and why?
- What else do we need to know?

Data source throughout slides: state AFCARS and NCANDS files submitted directly to Casey Family Programs
How do you measure re-entry?

So many ways to measure... which one is right?

* Permanency includes reunification, guardianship and live with relatives
How do you measure re-entry?

- Assessment of full caseload at given point in time
- Could be kids re-entering from *any time* in past

% of children *in care* who have been in care before (point in time)
How do you measure re-entry?

- Assessment of entries during the year
- Could be kids re-entering from any time in past
How do you measure re-entry?

- Tracks longitudinally for 12 months from point of initial discharge
- Pinpoints effectiveness of post-reunification services & interventions

*(Permanency includes reunification, guardianship and live with relatives)*
How do you measure re-entry?

- Tracks longitudinally for *limited* population of kids
- Pinpoints effectiveness of post-reunification services & interventions

* Permanency includes reunification, guardianship and live with relatives
What are the national trends?

Let’s focus presentation here....

% of children re-entering care within 12 months of achieving permanency*

* Permanency includes reunification, guardianship and live with relatives
What are the national trends?

View Across States

% of children re-entering care within 12 months of achieving permanency*
(reunification, live with relatives, guardianship)

- 9 states above 11%
- 20 states between 9-11%
- 22 states better than national

Blue states have decreased the percent of children re-entering care over the last 4 years.
Who re-enters... and when... and why?

Length of time in prior episode
% of children re-entering care by time in care during prior episode

- 13% for 0-3 months
- 11% for 3-6 months
- 10% for 6-9 months
- 9% for 9-12 months
- 9% for 12-18 months
- 9% for 18-24 months
- 7% for 24+ months
Who re-enters... and when... and why?

% of children re-entering in 12 months, by type of discharge
(cohorts of children discharged between 2013-2015)

- Reunified: 12%
- Live with relatives: 7%
- Guardianship: 3%
Who re-enters... and when... and why?

Time to re-entry
(cohorts of children discharged between 2013-2015)

These re-entries occur consistently throughout the 12 month tracking period, with about half of the re-entries occurring before 6-7 months.

- children who exited to live with relatives
- children who exited to reunification
- children who exited to guardianship
Who re-enters… and when… and why?

How to interpret? 1 in 5 (20%) children who re-enter care are in care for less than 6 months, and re-enter within 6 months of discharge.
Who re-enters… and when… and why?

% of children of each age who re-enter care
(cohorts of children discharged between 2013-2015)

Different groups of children may require different strategies.
Who re-enters... and when... and why?

% of children re-entering in 12 months, by primary race/ethnicity

- Multi-racial
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino(a)
- White
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Gray bars = national trend
What else do we need to know?

National Trends
other measures are also valuable in understanding what happens within 12 months of achieving permanency

- Screened-in report in 12 months: 30%
- Substantiated report in 12 months: 11%
- Re-entry in 12 months: 9%
PREDICTORS OF RE-ENTRY
Variables associated with re-entering care

Youth and Children
- Black or African-American
- Age (infants, pre-teens and teens)
- Behavioral challenges (e.g., externalizing behaviors)
- Mental health challenges
- Developmental delays

Family
- Caregiver parenting competency
- Parental substance abuse
- Parental criminal history
- Lack of family support
- Number of children in the home
- Poverty
- Involvement due to neglect
Variables associated with re-entering care

Community
- Residential mobility
- Insufficient housing
- Neighborhood conditions (e.g., higher crime rates, less safe play space)

Administrative
- More placements
- Short stays
- Fewer years of experience by worker
- Residential or group home placement
- Not being placed with kin (placement with kin is protective)
QUESTION:
What type of re-entry data does your organization analyze?

ANSWER (please choose one)
- CFSR
- Point in time
- Cohort
- Two or more of the above
- Do not (consistently) analyze
- Other - *(Please indicate in the Question section)*
THE KVC APPROACH TO SUSTAINED PERMANENCY

Linda B. Bass, PhD LCMFT
Vice President of Clinical Services
History of sustained permanency in Kansas

• During 1995-97, Kansas child welfare was privatized
  – KVC Kansas has provided services through this public-private partnership for more than 20 years
  – A focus on sustained permanency is woven into the state contracts (i.e. dedicated services to support lasting permanency)
  – Performance-based measurements (i.e. recidivism rates)
Front end loading

• Evidence-based approaches that support timely, lasting permanency
  – Safe & Connected Framework
  – Evidence based assessments and case planning
  – Parent Management Training- Oregon Model (PMTO), Trauma Systems Therapy (TST), Teen CONNECT, Strengthening Families Program (SFP), Seeking Safety
Front end loading (cont)

• Evidence-based approaches that support timely, lasting permanency
  – Relative placement
  – Frequent visitation
  – Siblings placed together
  – Children placed in or close to county of removal
Program components

- Flexible, adaptive services
  - Intensive to less-intensive service period that last one year post permanency
  - 24/7/365 support
  - Ongoing adoption support services
  - Dedicated staff with specialized training focused on sustained permanency
Program components (cont)

- Communication & training to courts and community partners
  - Relapse as part of recovery
  - Alternative safe caregiving options
  - Removal from home is another trauma for child(ren)
Program components (cont)

• Services to families focus on:
  – Skill building & problem solving
  – Respite/emergency care plans
  – Relapse prevention & planning
  – Improving access to community supports & services
  – Expanding support network
  – Support groups & mentoring
Use of data

- **Recidivism data** provides information about areas of strength and opportunities for system improvement
- **CSFR performance data**
- **Point-in-time data**
- Use of **predictive analytics** helps to identify needs of a family at time of entry into foster care that, if addressed, lead to improved permanency rates (initial and sustained)
Recommendations

- Involve parents in program development
- KVC hosts an Engaging Parents/Developing Leaders Workgroup focused on system and service improvements across all programming
- Use of phone calls and surveys to seek feedback from families and adjust services as needed
Recommendations (cont)

• Frequent communication, education and problem-solving with court and community partners

• Targeted use of data to respond to changing needs of families and improve front and back-end service delivery
KVC Kansas
Presenter:
Linda Bass, PhD LCMFT,
Vice President of Clinical Services
QUESTION:
What is the greatest opportunity for improving your organization’s approach to sustained permanency?

ANSWER (please choose one)
- Better understanding of data
- Partnering with constituents
- Implementing a new program
- Accessing additional funding
- 2 or more of the above
- Something else (Please indicate where in the Question section)
RECAP AND PREVIEW OF WEBINAR PART 2

Yvonne Humenay Roberts
Casey Family Programs
7 Components of Existing Sustained Permanency Programs

1. Basic Family Resources
2. Safety-Focused Practices
3. Trauma-Informed
4. Evidence-based Clinical Child Supports
5. Caregiver Supports & Services
6. Support Networks
7. Navigation Services
Twitter

Using #SustainedPermanency

- Post questions and thoughts
- Tell us about your sustained permanency programs
  - We will summarize & post to CWLA & Casey websites
Provide the following:

1. Program name
2. County & State
3. Website
4. Primary focus (Decrease child behavior problems, Increase parent competencies, Strengthen relationships, Other [explain])
5. Outcome targeted (Reunification, Adoption, Guardianship, or combination)
Twitter (cont): Example

#SustainedPermanency
1. Homebuilders
2. Multiple locations
4. Decrease behavior, increase competencies, strengthen relationships, parent mental health and SA
5. Reunification
Recap of today’s webinar

1. Work must be value-driven and focused on children’s quality of life

2. There are a lot of ways to examine re-entry data, each of which answers a different question

3. It is important to involve and engage all stakeholders
Sustained Permanency Webinar
Part 2: June 28

1. Hear a mother/son’s re-entry story
2. Colorado DHS approach to sustained permanency
3. Impact of Family First on sustained permanency
4. Summary of practical steps to support sustained permanency
For more information

ResearchTeam@casey.org

https://www.casey.org/Sustained-Permanency-Webinar
Resources

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC)

National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG)
  - [https://qic-ag.org/](https://qic-ag.org/)

*Effectively Implementing Effective Practices for Sustainable Permanency: A Synthesis of Research and Practice*
 [authored by the National Implementation Resource Network (NIRN) for The Colorado Department of Human Services’ (CDHS)]
  - [https://www.casey.org/Sustained-Permanency-Webinar](https://www.casey.org/Sustained-Permanency-Webinar)
Resources (cont)

CWLA’s Children’s Voice article… *Ten Practical Steps to Support Sustained Permanency*


Supporting Lifelong Families: Steps Child Welfare Agencies Can Take to Prevent Children From Re-entering Foster Care


Supporting Lifelong Families: Ensuring Long-Lasting Permanency and Well-Being

- [https://www.casey.org/supporting-lifelong-families/](https://www.casey.org/supporting-lifelong-families/)
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