

Overview of Foster Care

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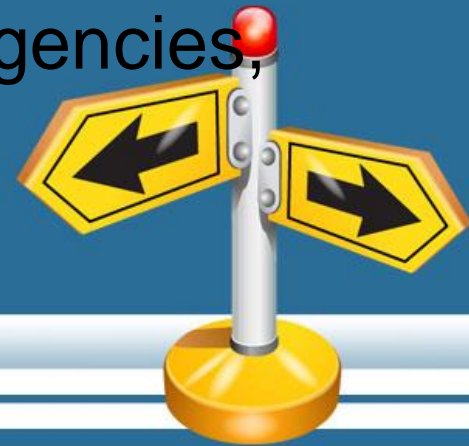
Director of Children's Service

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Services



Brief Overview of Foster Care

1. Discussion regarding who the children are in foster care, how they come into care and what happens to them while they are in the system.
2. Nassau's Demographics
3. Explanation of foster care vs. kinship care vs. direct custody with relatives
4. Discussion of foster care in Nassau County and other local districts vs. ACS, private agencies, direct provision of services
5. Role of the caseworker/LDSS



Informal Care

- Kin caregiver does not have legal authority
- Parents can take child back anytime
- No child welfare support (unless involved in Preventive Services)
- Caretaker can seek custody/guardianship through court
- May be eligible for Temporary Assistance
- Will not be eligible for an adoption subsidy or KinGap

Direct Placement (Article 10)

- Child removed by CPS and placed by Family Court
- Kin caregiver has temporary legal custody
- CW and Court Supervision
- May be eligible for Temporary Assistance
- Will not be eligible for adoption subsidy or KinGAP
- Parent right to visit but cannot get child back without court order

Kinship Foster Care (Article 10)

- Child removed by CPS and placed by Family Court
- Kin caregiver must be approved or certified as a foster parent
- Foster parent training required
- CW caseworker provides supports and assistance
- Parent right to visit but cannot get child back without court order
- Eligible for foster care stipend and other benefits
- Eligible for adoption subsidy or KinGap

Custody/Guardianship (Article 6)

- Requested by relative through a court petition
- Upon court approval Kin caregiver has long-term custody or guardianship
- No on-going court or child welfare (CW) intervention
- May be eligible for Temporary Assistance
- Will not be eligible for adoption subsidy or KinGAP
- Parent right to visit but cannot get child back without court order
- No foster care training required

PERMANENCY Adoption

- Parents rights terminated or parents surrendered/deceased
- Must be approved through home study, background check and training
- Permanent legal arrangement made through family or Surrogate court
- Adoptive parent has all legal rights and responsibilities
- No on-court or child welfare involvement
- May qualify for adoption subsidy and other benefits
- May no longer qualify for Temporary Assistance

PERMANENCY KinGap

- Must first rule out adoption and return to parent
- KinGap payments available
- Must be in foster care with same kin caregiver for six months first
- Must complete certain requirements
- Must show permanent commitment t support child support through age 18-21
- No child welfare or court involvement
- Parents maintain rights, can visit, and could petition to return child, unless child is freed

ROAD TO PERMANENCY



The Power of Connections (15-20 minutes)

A group activity which focuses on the power of our connections, illustrating that our connections contribute to our identities and who we think we are. During and after the exercise participants focus on losing their connections and can conceptualize some of the losses that children in foster care experience.



Multiple Transitions Video



Dec-2014						
24-Hour Care Only	0-5	6-9	10-13	14-17	18+	Totals
Black or African American	42	19	17	32	21	131
<i>Unknown</i>	4	1	0	5	1	11
White	20	10	9	20	6	65
Asian	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	66	30	26	58	28	208
Dec-2015						
24-Hour Care Only	0-5	6-9	10-13	14-17	18+	Totals
Black or African American	28	12	17	36	12	105
<i>Unknown</i>	11	5	1	6	1	24
White	16	11	11	22	6	66
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	55	28	29	64	19	195
Sep-2016						
24-Hour Care Only	0-5	6-9	10-13	14-17	18+	Totals
Black or African American	24	9	15	30	9	87
<i>Unknown</i>	13	3	2	10	0	28
White	21	8	16	30	5	80
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	58	20	33	70	14	195

Date	In-Care End of Month 24-Hour Care	Current Age					Children in Care		Average Time In Care	
		0-5 Years	6-9 Years	10-13 Years	14-17 Years	18+ Years	At least 12 of 22 Months	Less than 12 of 22 Months	Months	Years
2000 Avg.	595	159	113	116	159	48	453	142	41	3.38
2001 Avg.	565	144	85	106	188	42	422	143	42	3.51
2002 Avg.	534	121	81	107	186	39	394	140	42	3.46
2003 Avg.	487	94	70	97	178	48	360	127	41	3.44
2004 Avg.	471	79	59	88	184	61	340	132	41	3.40
2005 Avg.	475	68	50	79	214	64	321	154	37	3.08
2006 Avg.	435	68	36	66	202	63	292	143	35	2.92
2007 Avg.	441	76	43	51	212	59	261	180	31	2.58
2008 Avg.	442	87	44	48	202	61	235	207	26	2.17
2009 Avg.	448	95	43	49	200	62	241	207	24	2.00
2010 Avg.	437	90	39	45	188	75	259	178	24	2.00
2011 Avg.	349	74	32	40	143	59	220	129	25	2.08
2012 Avg.	295	72	26	35	118	44	177	119	26	2.17
2013 Avg.	254	68	21	31	95	40	155	99	26	2.19
2014 Avg.	221	65	26	26	69	34	134	71	25	2.10
2015 Avg.	221	69	35	29	66	23	139	83	24	2.01

NCDSS Data from NYS Data Warehouse