

Maine DHHS: Putting Children First

Office of Child & Family Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services
May 2015



*Department of Health
and Human Services*

*Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives*

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS)

Vision:

All youth in Maine will grow up to be productive community members. We achieve this by keeping youth safe, structuring services and supports to help create a successful transition to adulthood and by finding stable and permanent homes.

Mission:

Ensuring the safety of all Maine youth is our top priority. In addition, we empower families to help prepare youth for transition to adulthood and to access services that keep their family safe.

We believe:

- Child safety is **first and foremost**
- Parents have the **right and responsibility** to raise their children
- Children deserve to live in a **safe and nurturing** family
- All children deserve a **permanent** family
- How we do our work is **as important** as the work we do

OCFS Structure and Programs

Programs and Services

- ❖ Child Welfare Services
 - ❖ Child Protection and Foster Care
 - ❖ Family Reunification
 - ❖ Youth Transition Workers
- ❖ Children's Behavioral Health Services
 - ❖ Community Based Services
 - ❖ Case Management
 - ❖ Transition Services
- ❖ Early Intervention/ Prevention
 - ❖ Childcare and Early Education Services
 - ❖ Community Partnerships and Engagement
 - ❖ Policy and Staff Development
- ❖ Operations
 - ❖ Federal and State Quality Improvement

Looking Back: FY2014 Accomplishments

- ✓ Maine's rate of placement of children with relatives was **33% higher** than the national average. Maine placed 36% with relatives, versus the 27% national average.
- ✓ Total adoptions **increased** by **23%**.
- ✓ Responses to reports of abuse and neglect within 72 hours increased from 81% in 2013 to **86% in 2014**.
- ✓ Incidences of previously abused children being victims of maltreatment in the system **decreased 7%** in 2014, from 6.5% of children to 6.1%.
- ✓ 2014 saw **100 more children** leave foster care for permanent homes than in 2013.
- ✓ Children aging out of foster care was **reduced by 2%**.

Looking Forward: Priorities for FY16

The Office of Child and Family Services has set the following goals and priorities:

- Reduce the number of youth in care.
- Decrease the number of youth in out of home placements.
- Improve all children's ability to transition successfully to adulthood through identification, planning, and employment services.
- Reduce the turnover rate within OCFS.
- Implement multiple statewide initiatives focused on child maltreatment prevention across the spectrum of care.

Integrated Quality Assurance Practices

Objective	Strategy
Provide real-time reviews and strategies for improvement on child welfare assessments.	Explore use and deployment of Rapid Safety Feedback.
Create a cultural of continuous quality improvement within the OCFS district offices.	Continuation of the Quality Circles model in every office.
Improvement with federal child welfare measures.	District engagement, accountability, planning and debriefing.

Enhancement to Behavioral Health Services

Objective	Strategy
Include Employment Services within in-home support services for youth.	Add vocational planning and services to Section 28, Section 65 and iSPA.
Create a coordinated planning process in alignment with the adult system.	Design and implement a person centered planning process.
Increase fidelity and consistency of services.	Identification of evidence-based practices and potential use within policy.

Increasing Prevention Activities

Objective	Strategy
Empower local communities to protect children, build programs and leverage resources.	Engage with Maine Children's Trust to develop actionable items for the next two years.
Decrease maltreatment and re maltreatment rates	Explore coordination of prevention activities across the state and use of an info/referral center through intake.

Child Safety is First and Foremost

- ✓ **Rapid Safety Feedback:** The OCFS is actively pursuing the use of real-time quality assurance practices that will allow for a specially-trained group of staff to review cases, assess for unaddressed risk/safety factors, and take action on creating plans to address the identified concerns. OCFS will be focusing on our most vulnerable children (0-3 yrs. old) who have an open case with the department. This work is planning to be started by early 2016.

19,252 reports received through intake

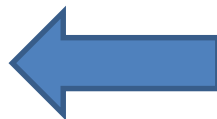


8,862 reports assigned for CPS investigation

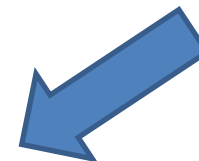


2,530 findings of substantiated or indicated abuse

1,552 families received support to keep children safe



1,935 children in state custody as of 6/2014



Children Deserve a Safe, Nurturing Family

OCFS firmly believes that children have the right to be placed in the least restrictive setting possible. In any given month:

- ✓ **250** children and their families received respite services.
- ✓ **300** children accessed crisis stabilization services outside the home.
- ✓ **2,100** children accessed mobile crisis outreach.
- ✓ **320** children accessed residential treatment services.
- ✓ **1,400** children received individual and/or group outpatient therapy.
- ✓ **6,000** children received case management services.
- ✓ **2,600** children accessed rehabilitative and community support services for children with cognitive impairment and functional limitations.
- ✓ **1,300** children received home and community treatment services.
- ✓ **600** children with behavioral health needs accessed medication management.

Questions?

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