

Reducing the Need for Congregate Care

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Setting the stage

- What is congregate care?
- The role of Families First Prevention Services Act
- What are Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) and when is it an appropriate placement?



DCS has developed a Theory of Change.

(develop strategies to produce results and achieve goals)

DCS is committed to creating a culture of family strengthening with reduced bias and increased empathy and equity.

DCS understands reducing the use of congregate care will take partnering internally and externally.

(DCS field operations staff, leadership, family finding staff, contracted agencies foster parents, & kinship caregivers)



Strategies

- Kin first culture. Rule-in mindset.
- Review cases of black children in congregate care with system and community partners
- Implement the new FAS & KSS contracts
- Improve foster home recruitment strategies
 - recruitment estimator to guide recruitment marketing strategies)
 - create messages that counteract negative perceptions and bias about children in group homes



Strategies

- Devote trained full-time staff to finding family-like settings for children
- Resolicit the Congregate Care contract - Reduce the number of CC agencies caring for children in DCS custody
- Engagement in the Ending the Need for Group Placements peer learning forum.

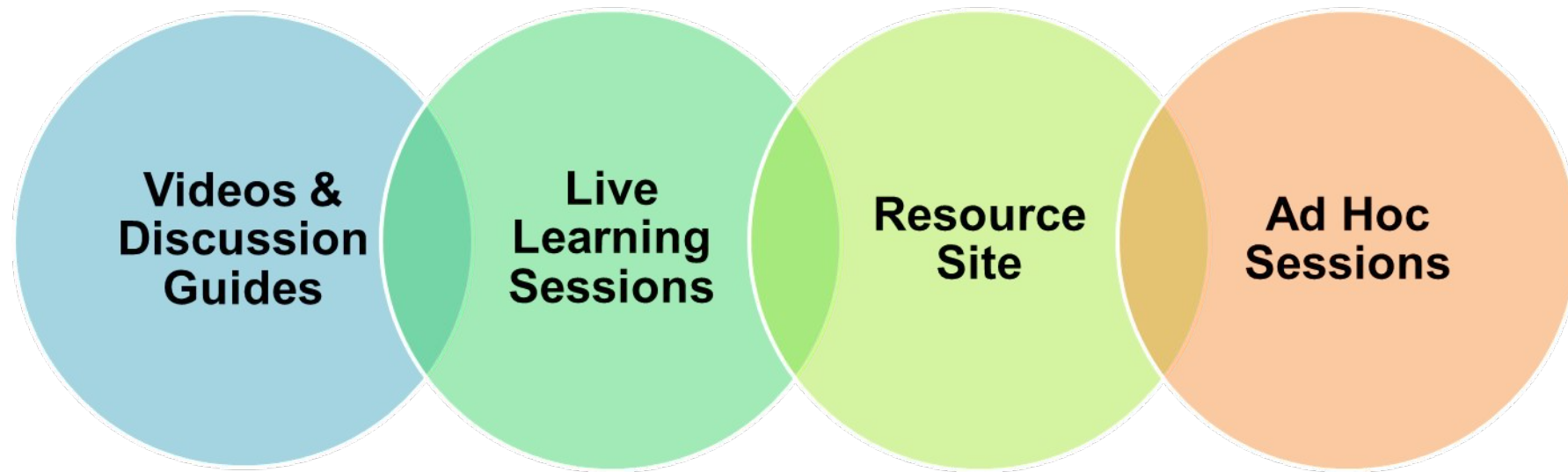


Ending the Need for Group Placements

- A national conversation
- A collective effort sparked by the voices of young people who participated in the [Think of Us report, Away From Home](#). The report's recommendations included eliminating group placements.
- A response by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs and community partners across the nation
- Goals:
 - to ensure all children and young people grow up with their families in safe, supportive homes
 - to end our country's over-reliance on group facilities and institutions to raise young people.
 - to design and build equitable systems of care and support that ensure that children and their families have what they need.



Learning Exchange Logic Model



Seven Levers of Change

1. Engaging with partners with lived expertise
2. Advancing a kin-first culture
3. Developing trauma-informed, healing-centered mental health services
4. Accelerating provider transformation towards family support
5. Partnering with resource caregivers
6. Facilitating legislative/court partnerships
7. Instituting technical roadblocks to facilitate systemwide behavioral change



DCS' Goals

- 10% or less of care days are in a DCS licensed group home, QRPT or shelter (currently 14.89%)
- The percentage of children living in a family-like settings is greater than 85% of the total Out of Home population



Thank you

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