

NC Department of Health and Human Services
Child Welfare and Social Services Reform

Landscape for Systemic Change

Alycia Blackwell-Pittman
Senior Human Services Policy Advisor

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Drivers of Reform

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW OF 2015:

- Program Improvement Plan

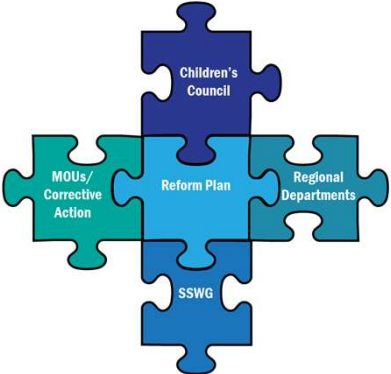
LEGISLATION:

- Rylan's Law
- Family First Prevention Services Act



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Key Components of Rylan's Law



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DHHS Report to the Legislature

- Rylan's Law requires a report from DHHS to the Legislature to identify plans and preliminary recommendations to:
 - Provide a blueprint to shift from a centralized model of supervision to one that is regional and can provide closer support and monitoring to counties
 - Programs affected include child welfare, adult protective services and guardianship, public assistance, and child support enforcement
 - The report focuses on reorganization of staff and identification of resources needed to begin this transition





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Report Summary

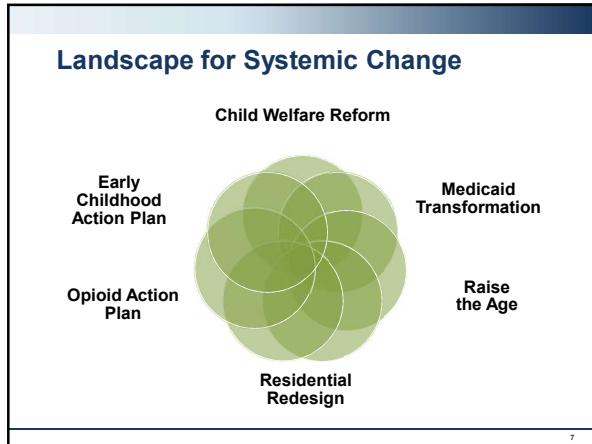
- Recommendations submitted by the SSWG and CSF significantly informed the recommendations presented in this report
- Report organized into 4 sections with 14 recommendations addressing:
 - Geographic regions
 - Staffing needs
 - Legislative Changes
 - Other key enablers

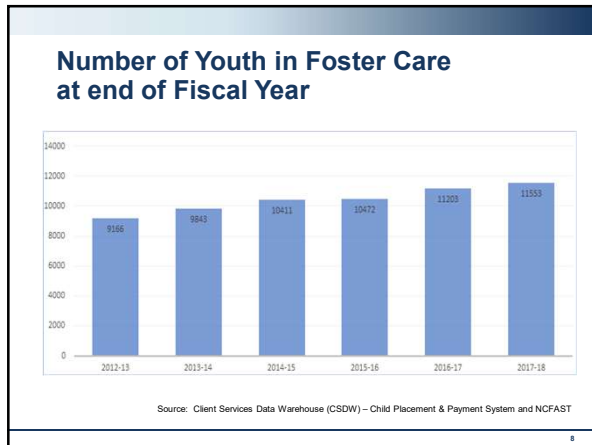
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Rylan's Law – Status

-  DHHS provided the legislature with plans and legislative recommendations needed to move toward regional supervision
-  Phased-in approach to regional supervision of county-administered services by 2020.
-  DHHS is refining metrics for the data dashboard and MOU's to improve system accountability and transparency
-  DHHS has adopted certain preliminary recommendations from CSF. Final recommendations are pending.

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Reasons Children Entered Foster Care SFY 2013-2018

	SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018	
Total Number of Children Entering Care *	6,127		6,127		5,921		5,684		5,727		5,338	
Reason for Entering Care *	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Abandonment	283	4.6%	312	5.1%	356	6.0%	245	4.3%	254	4.4%	235	4.4%
Physical Abuse	535	8.7%	619	10.1%	544	9.2%	487	8.6%	534	9.3%	471	8.8%
Sexual Abuse	185	3.0%	198	3.2%	193	3.3%	207	3.6%	199	3.5%	153	2.9%
Medical (Child)	8	0.1%	30	0.5%	30	0.5%	13	0.2%	27	0.5%	20	0.4%
Alcohol (Parent)	314	5.1%	483	7.9%	365	6.2%	412	7.3%	541	9.5%	442	8.3%
Child's Behavior Problem	408	6.7%	416	6.8%	429	7.3%	498	8.8%	485	8.5%	453	8.5%
Child's Disability	65	1.1%	50	0.8%	57	1.0%	71	1.3%	87	1.5%	48	0.9%
Coping	1100	18.0%	1,187	19.4%	1,271	21.5%	1,314	23.3%	1,301	22.7%	1,187	22.2%
Death of Parent	111	1.8%	115	1.9%	108	1.8%	105	1.8%	95	1.7%	85	1.6%
Domestic Violence	873	14.2%	1,092	17.8%	1,096	18.5%	981	17.3%	1,043	18.4%	795	14.9%
Drug Addict (Child)	115	1.9%	111	1.8%	102	1.7%	102	1.8%	95	1.7%	64	1.2%
Drug Addict (Parent)	222	3.6%	240	3.9%	218	3.7%	238	4.2%	183	3.2%	185	3.5%
Inadequate Housing	774	12.6%	841	13.7%	820	13.9%	795	14.0%	820	14.4%	690	12.9%
Incarceration	340	5.6%	343	5.6%	370	6.3%	418	7.4%	410	7.2%	305	5.7%
Neglect	4384	71.6%	5,201	85.1%	4,743	80.1%	4,630	81.4%	4,690	82.1%	4,206	78.8%
Reinquishment	28	0.4%	40	0.7%	43	0.7%	37	0.7%	28	0.5%	40	0.8%

Source: Client Services Data Warehouse (CSDW) – Child Placement & Payment System

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Prevention Services

OVERVIEW

States have the option to use Title IV-E funds for trauma-informed, evidence-based prevention services for eligible children and their families

ELIGIBILITY

- Children who are “candidates” for foster care (including their parents and kin caregivers)
- Children in foster care who are pregnant or parenting
- Children and parents are eligible without regard to their income



Services Eligible for Funding

Types of services

- Mental health services
- Substance abuse assessment and treatment
- In-home parent skill-based programs
- Kinship Navigator programs
- Residential parent-child substance abuse treatment programs

Additional requirements of limitations

- No more than one year (per candidate episode)
 - Services can be extended for additional one year periods on a case-by-case basis
- Must meet certain evidence-based requirements
- Must be trauma-informed
- Services must be provided by a qualified clinician



Required Statewide Plan

- States opting into prevention services must submit a prevention plan to the Children’s Bureau
- Title IV-E plan (resubmitted every five years) must include:
 - Details on services
 - Expected outcomes
 - How children and families are assessed
 - How services are monitored and evaluated
 - Type of program implementation
 - Consultation and coordination with other agencies
 - Details on workforce training and management of caseloads
 - Assurances of state’s compliance with funding provisions



Congregate Care Funding Limitations

Fourteen days after entering foster care, federal reimbursement is limited to children in a:

- Foster family home
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
- Specialized setting providing pre-natal, post-partum or parenting supports for youth
- Supervised setting for youth 18 or older, and living independently
- Setting providing high-quality residential care and supportive services to children who have been or are at risk of becoming sex trafficking victims



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Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Requirements

- A trauma-informed treatment model designed to address the needs, including clinical needs, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances
- Facilitates participation of family members in the child's treatment program
 - Documents integration of family members into treatment process for the child, including post-discharge and maintenance of sibling connections
- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months post-discharge
- Licensed and accredited by certain independent, not-for-profit organizations
- Registered or licensed nursing staff, and other licensed clinical staff available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

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Other QRTP Requirements

- Thirty day assessment by a qualified clinician – determines the appropriateness of the placement
- Family and permanency team meetings
- A host of case plan documentation and related requirements
- Court approval or disapproval of the QRTP placement within 60 days
- Additional reporting requirements for extended QRTP placements
 - If a child is placed in a QRTP for an extended period, the state must submit specific documentation/justification to HHS



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Next Steps for Family First

-  Partnership with University of Chicago, Chapin Hall and The Duke Endowment to help with implementation of key components of Family First
-  Partnership with Casey Foundation to provide expert analysis on maximizing federal funds and fiscal planning for Family First
-  Incorporate stakeholders in the planning process
-  Integrate Family First into the child welfare transformation landscape

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Rylan's Law and FFPSA Overlap


Rylan's Law	FFPSA
Provisions to prevent removal of children from the home through supports and services; prevention, mental health, physical health, education services	Options to use federal funds to implement services and supports to prevent children from being removed from their home
Child fatality oversight and effectiveness of Community Child Protection Teams (CCPT)	Develop and implement a statewide plan to prevent fatalities that includes multiple source data collection
Recommends a practice model	Trauma informed prevention services
Efforts to increase permanency	Limitations on the use of federal funding for congregate care with some exceptions
Services to older youth and youth aged out of foster care	Opportunity to extend foster care services to youth up to age 23
Establishing expectations for professional development, training and performance standards	Articulate the plan to support the delivery of trauma-informed, evidence-based services by child welfare professionals

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Summary

Child Welfare Reform provides opportunities to improve safety and keep children with families

- Uses existing federal funding for new prevention services
- Supports efforts to keep children safely with families
- Helps ensure children's needs are met when congregate care placements are necessary
- Supports key provisions in Rylan's Law
- Is represented in NC's other key areas of systemic change



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