

CHILD WELFARE POLICIES THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM THE SYSTEM MAPPING PROCESS

There were four “aspirational” system outcomes identified, outcomes that would serve as overarching guidelines for all the other outcomes:

- Services regardless of setting
- Every child has a permanent connection to a caring adult
- Right metrics to demonstrate accountability for outcomes
- Right services, right time, right dose

There are seven child welfare policies that emerged from the system mapping process:

There were also 15 “functional” system outcomes identified, outcomes that would be phased in over time to serve as the foundation for the system of care:

- 1) Children should remain in their own homes whenever safely possible. Children will only be removed from their homes when safety requires it. A uniform assessment process will be used to help make these decisions.
- 2) We will provide families the necessary supports to help their children stay safely in their own homes.
- 3) Children will not “grow up” or stay for extended periods of time in out of home care settings. Children will grow up in family settings with permanent families whenever possible.
- 4) Permanency decisions will be made as quickly as possible when it is clear that a child will not be returning to their own home. Keeping siblings together whenever possible will be a priority. Every child leaving care will have a permanent connection to a caring adult.
- 5) Families will be involved in all aspects of decision-making and planning during the time their child is in out of home care.
- 6) Every effort will be made to place a child as close to their own home as possible and weekly family contact or home visits with families will be expected.
- 7) Service delivery should be incentivized. The state will pay more for those services that are needed the most and that can successfully produce the results that are most needed.