Introductions
Danger vs. Risk
What’s In It For You

• An opportunity to check your own practice when differentiating Danger from Risk

• Danger and Risk will now have a standardized meaning for families/DHS/partners/judges

• Learn an easy method for talking with families and partners about Danger and Risk
Agenda

• Danger and Risk Through the Lens of Family First
• NCCD (National Council on Crime and Delinquency)
• Danger and Risk Redefined
• Assessing for Danger and Risk
• Talking with Families about Danger and Risk
Danger and Risk Through the Lens of Family First
Family First Precepts

- Family First is better for kids
- Less trauma = shorter case length = more successful outcomes in the long run
- Keep families safe with their parents, not from their parents
Ongoing Family First Strategies

- Refining Language
  - Removal versus placement

- Child Safety Conferences (CSC)
Ongoing Family First Strategies

✔ Four Questions
  - What can we do to remove the danger instead of the child?
  - Can someone the child/family knows move in to the home to remove the danger?
  - Can the caregiver and child go live with a relative or fictive kin?
  - Can the child move temporarily to relative or fictive kin?
    ➢ Judges
    ➢ Supervisors
Ongoing Family First Strategies

✓ Risk Re-Assessment

✓ New Safety Assessment and Safety Plan

✓ Tiered Training Approach
  1. SBC Training
  2. Danger vs. Risk
  3. FCS/QRTP Contract Fundamentals
Structured Decision-Making Model
The SDM® System

A research- and evaluation-based decision-support system.
Tools Are a Prompt for Practice

Tools do not make decisions.

People make decisions.

Tools help people make better decisions.
Danger and Risk Redefined
Dysfunctional ≠ Danger

• Who in the room knows a dysfunctional family?
• Should their children automatically be removed?
• Who in the room grew up in a dysfunctional family?
• Are there varying levels of dysfunction?
• Dysfunctional is not automatically dangerous.
DANGER is the imminent threat of serious harm

Imminent – expectation that harm could occur in the very near future

Danger replacing safety terminology - why this language shift to danger?
Danger Does Not Equal Removal

However, danger does signal for immediate action by the Department of Human Services:

• Demands consultation with your Supervisor
• May require the development of a Safety Plan
• May require the development of an Action Plan
• May be more effectively resolved by the worker presenting the case to a Child Safety Conference or during group supervision.
**Risk**

**RISK** is the **likelihood of future involvement** with child protection.
Risk

- All families have risk
- The identification of risk factors help us determine the focus of the change process and issues that will impact successful interventions
- Our new risk assessment and re-assessment tools will help us to make more informed decisions
Risk Factors

![Diagram showing Risk Factors]

- Present Danger
- Risk
- Parent’s Emotional Characteristics
- Parent’s Behavioral Characteristics
- Parent’s Cognitive Abilities

Safety and Risk Factors

Safety of the Child

Protective Factors

- Attitude of the Alleged Abuser
- Chronicity of the Incident
- Circumstances
## Danger Factors vs. Risk Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Danger Factors</th>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allegation</strong></td>
<td>Current harm/Injury</td>
<td>Future harm/danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Severity</strong></td>
<td>Serious</td>
<td>Continuum from mild to serious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actuality</strong></td>
<td>Present/Impending</td>
<td>Possibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Factors</strong></td>
<td>- Time sensitive conditions</td>
<td>- Behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Child vulnerabilities are taken into account such as:</td>
<td>- Motives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Age</td>
<td>- Perceptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physical ability</td>
<td>- Beliefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cognitive ability</td>
<td>- Family conditions as a whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Developmental status</td>
<td>- Family environment that creates danger for the child in the foreseeable future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Emotional security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Family loyalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment Completed</strong></td>
<td>Critical points throughout the life of the case:</td>
<td>- Completion of CA/FA assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Initial CA/FA assessment visit</td>
<td>- New reported allegations of abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Completion of assessment</td>
<td>- Changing family conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Initiation of unsupervised visitation</td>
<td>- Changes to visitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Prior to reunification/THV</td>
<td>- Prior to reunification/THV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Prior to case closure</td>
<td>- Prior to case closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Whenever circumstances suggest a child may be in an unsafe situation/new allegations of abuse</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Danger vs. Risk

Danger

Risk
Danger vs. Risk

• Confidence educating external partners (legal, contracted providers, etc.) on the meaning of Danger and Risk and how they differ

• A change in how we talk about the differences between Danger vs. Risk with families, our partners, and within our team at DHS
Practice Danger vs. Risk
## IMMINENT DANGER OR RISK?

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Danger</th>
<th>Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A pot of boiling water is sitting on the edge of the stove, and a 3-year-old is in the kitchen unsupervised.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mom has four prior child protective services (CPS) investigations in the past year.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Dad has untreated mental health concerns.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>After drinking a lot of alcohol, grandmother (the primary caregiver) passes out on the couch while holding a 3-month-old infant.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Stepmother uses a belt to whip a 13-year-old girl after she returned home after her curfew. Welts on the girl’s back are visible and significant.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>An 8-year-old boy’s arm was broken as a result of physical abuse when he was 5 years old.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dad has a history of being abused as a child.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>There is a history of domestic violence incidents and a report of a recent violent physical assault between mom and dad when the kids were home.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>The family previously received ongoing services from CPS.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Mom has a history of substance abuse, but she has been receiving services and has been sober for the past year.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessing for Danger and Risk
All information

Information learned

Information needed for decision at hand
Caregiver

Behavior

Impact on the Child
Practice CBI
Please review the following statements and identify all three parts of caregiver, behavior, and impact on the child (CBI). If one or more components are not present, indicate “not present” for that component.

1. Pediatrician is concerned about abnormal and drastic weight loss in the children due to parents’ restricting food as a form of punishment.

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<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Impact on Child</th>
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2. An 8-year-old boy discloses alleged sexual abuse to his primary school teacher. The boy alleges that his father touched and picked his “private.” The boy does not provide much information about the incident but says it happened when he lived with his mom. The boy currently lives with his mom and siblings.

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<th>Impact on Child</th>
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Assessing Is a Continual Process
Family Engagement in Safety Planning

Content

Process
Can the Child Safely Remain Home?

- Is there imminent danger of serious harm?
  - Yes: Can interventions provide in-home safety?
    - Yes: Safe With Plan
      - Create Safety Plan with family
      - Child placed in protective custody
    - No: Danger
      - Child placed in protective custody
  - No: Safe
The Action Plan should not be used as a Safety Plan. If there are immediate dangers that must be addressed, those should be addressed via a Safety Plan. The Action Plan should not be used to make even temporary or voluntary changes in child custody.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Plan</th>
<th>Action Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategies for controlling danger</td>
<td>Steps for controlling risk factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time sensitive</td>
<td>– Could incorporate into steps of an initial case plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan is closely monitored</td>
<td>Task completion tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back-up plan is developed</td>
<td>Continually assess progress for task completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Team supports ongoing progress for plan/tasks</td>
</tr>
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Talking with Families About Danger and Risk
Talking With Families About Danger and Risk
Danger and Risk Statements

Clear, specific statements about the danger or harm that has happened to the child. Include details, not judgment!

Who is worried?

What caregiver action/inaction?

Impact on the child
Practice Talking about Danger and Risk with Families
DANGER STATEMENT PRACTICE

Who is worried?  What caregiver action/inaction?  Impact on the child

Create a danger statement below and share with a partner.

How does this differ from your current practice? How might this look in practice? What other thoughts did you have when developing your danger statement? Would you make any changes if you were talking about danger with a support network member? A supervisor?
Thank You to the following staff for their contributions and time with Danger vs. Risk!

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- Steve Sherman
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DANGER DOES NOT EQUAL REMOVAL

However, danger does signal for immediate action by the Department of Human Services.

The presence of danger in a case:
- Demands consultation with your supervisor

Risk is the likelihood of future involvement with child protection.

All families have risk. The identification of risk factors helps...