

What's New with Child Safety and Removals?

Arizona Best for Babies Statewide Meeting

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The Goal of SAFE AZ Renovation

To make the right safety decision for every child using a clearly defined decision making process

Validity/Accuracy

Reliability/Consistency

Transparency

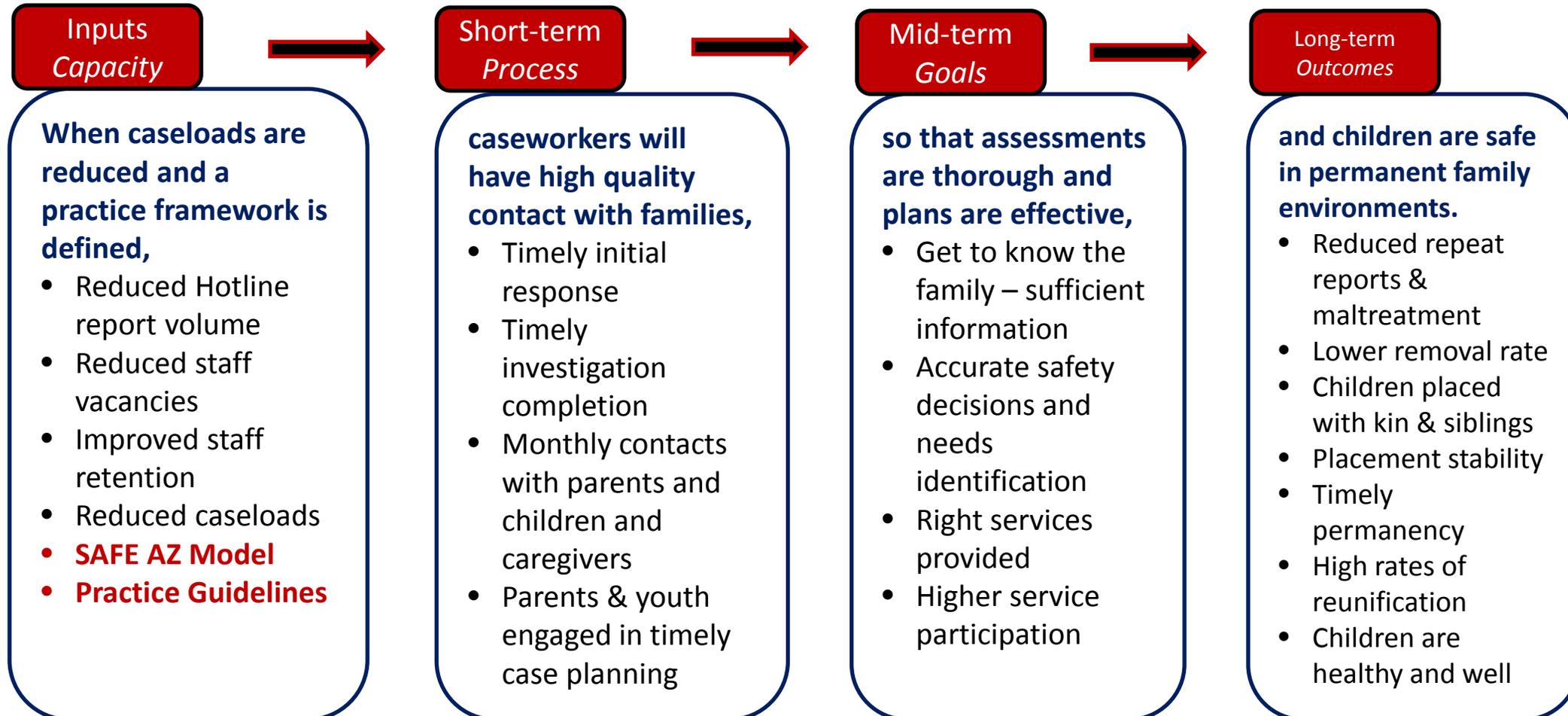
Best Child & Family Outcomes



The DCS Theory of Change

DCS Vision: Children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect

DCS Mission: Successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency



Capacity and Process Improvements

- 84% drop in total open reports for investigation – 33,245 in March 2015 to 5,195 in July
- 10% drop in out-of-home children - 16,831 in June 2017
- 90% of reports receive timely response - since October 2016
- 70%+ new reports close within 60 days, 90%+ within 90 days



Systemic & Sustainable Stage 1

- **Policies & Forms** – Investigation policies and forms posted
- **Judicial Review** – Court training occurring across the state, all AGs trained in June, County Court Teams training and planning 7/20 & 7/21
- **Training & Coaching** - 1,126 staff trained in 29 sessions (make ups in August) ; Safety Practice Experts
- **IT support** – CSRA and C-CSRA updated in June, Mobile solution
- **Service Array** – Integrated protective capacities into PA/SVO and IH contracts and provider training
- **QA and CQI** –Site-based teams for feedback



Systemic & Sustainable Stage 2

- **Policies & Forms** – Ongoing policies to be posted by January
- **Judicial Review** – County Court Teams will train locally, DCS on court teams; ongoing communication with AGs Office, new court report formats
- **Training & Coaching** - Stage 2 ongoing planned January and February; Advanced Boot Camp for more and stronger SPEs
- **IT support** – Guardian requirements being gathered
- **Service Array** – Training for behavioral health and contracted service providers
- **QA and CQI** – Site-based teams for feedback; fidelity reviews



Protective Capacities

Behavioral, cognitive and emotional characteristics that are specifically and directly associated with being protective to one's young.

BEHAVIORAL

- History of protecting
- Takes action
- Controls impulses
- Sets aside own needs for child(ren)
- Demonstrates adequate skills as caregiver
- Adaptive/ assertive as caregiver

COGNITIVE

- Plans and articulates a plan to protect the child(ren)
- Is self-aware as a parent/caregiver
- Is intellectually able to fulfill responsibilities
- Recognizes threats
- Recognizes child(ren)'s needs
- Understands own protective role

EMOTIONAL

- Meets own emotional needs
- Resilient as a caregiver
- Tolerant as a caregiver
- Is stable
- Expresses love, empathy, sensitivity for child(ren)
- Is positively attached with child(ren)
- Is aligned with and supports child(ren)



Conditions for Return

What would need to change in the home so that the safety threats could be controlled while the parent receives treatment services?

Example: A responsible adult will need to be in the home Monday through Friday from 5 PM to 7 AM to monitor Ms. Chaves' alcohol intake and provide for the young children's needs should the mother be observed to be intoxicated.

Conditions for return are not the same as conditions for dependency dismissal or conditions for case closure.

Children should return home when a sufficient, feasible, and sustainable plan can manage the safety threats.



Protective Factors Framework

- Strength-based
- Familiar to our service providers
- Let's talk about how to strengthen your family to make sure DCS doesn't get another call
- Practical and actionable



Practice Guidelines

- Drug testing
- Parenting time Parts I and II
- Reasonable Efforts to Locate in Investigation Cases
- Choosing Guardianship as a Permanency option
- Family reunification Planning and Services
- Assessing Safety in families Experiencing Domestic Violence
- Preserving a Child's Connection to Family, Tribe, Culture, and Community
- Maintaining Parent-Child relationships in reunification Cases
- Engaging Incarcerated parents in Reunification Cases
- High quality Parent contacts
- After Planning – Ongoing and In-Home
- Parent Readiness for Change
- Psychological Evaluations
- Engaging Parents in Parent Aide and Supervised visitation Only services
- Exploring Adoption for Timely Permanency
- Assessing the General Needs of Children



DCS & Court Collaboration:

Court Authorized Removals

- Courts revising rules – available for comment in the fall
- New form to request removal authorization
- Forms will eventually be available to DCS Specialists on tablets, in the field
- Court plans to centralize the process to request a court authorized removal – one centralized hub for the state

