



Family First Prevention Services Act

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Agenda

- Welcome
- FFPSA Overview
- Prevention Services Overview & Discussion
- Placement of Children Overview & Discussion
- Other Select Provisions
- Q&A
- Next Steps

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Objectives

- Those in attendance will gain knowledge about the Family First Prevention and Services Act (Family First).
- Attendees will learn about the activities that the Arizona Department of Child Safety is or will undertake to prepare for implementation of Family First.
- Attendees will consider the opportunities and challenges that implementation poses for Arizona and gain information about how they can best participate in the rollout of Family First.

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FFPSA Overview



Family First Prevention Services Act

Passed and signed into law (P.L. 115-123) in February 2018 as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act authorizing

1. New funding options for prevention of foster care placement
2. New policy to ensure appropriate placement of children in foster care
3. New funding option for kinship navigators
4. New funding and reauthorization for existing funding for child welfare programs

Opportunity for Stakeholders to Come Together



**FFPSA
Prevention
Services**



Focus on Prevention Services

- Prevent unnecessary placement of children at imminent risk of entering foster care
- Parents and caregivers can receive services
- Children could stay with their families, or kinship caregivers while addressing challenges
- Fewer children would enter foster care because they are staying with their families
- Option that is available starting October, 2019. Arizona will be opting in on or before October, 2021

Eligibility for Prevention Services

Intended to be a broad definition inclusive of:

- Birth parents
- Adoptive parents
- Kinship caregivers
- Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care

No income test to qualify for federal funding match

These Arizona children and their families are eligible for prevention services

A child with a parent who is at risk of imminent placement in foster care, but can be safe at home with prevention services for parent and/or child

A child who exited foster care to adoption or legal guardianship, or who was reunified with his or her parents at risk of re-entering foster care can get services along with the parents or guardians

A child living with kin caregivers who is at risk of imminent placement in foster care, but can be safe with prevention services for kin and/or child

A child living with parents but needs to be with a relative caregiver as guardian with prevention services

If a child/family needs services, and later has another episode where the child is again at imminent risk of removal, the family can again get services



What does FFPSA mean to children and families?

Access to Services in 3 Areas



Substance abuse prevention and treatment for children and parents



Mental Health services for children and parents



In-home **parent skill-based** programs

- a) Parent Skills
- b) Parent Education
- c) Individual and family counseling



You might have heard.....

The argument that these three areas are not enough to keep children safe.

Here are some counterarguments:

Research shows more children go into foster care because of neglect

- 71% neglect
- 35% substance abuse
- 15% abuse

Services through Family First can help reduce neglect

- Address behaviors that lead to abuse and neglect
- Keep families together while they address their issues
- Strengthen and stabilize by providing services for the entire family

Prevention Services

- Services can be provided to families whose children are at imminent risk of removal (referred to as candidates for Foster Care)
- Must be evidence based and trauma-informed
- Services funded up to 12 months at a time
- There is no limit on how many times a child and family can receive prevention services

Prevention Services

For Tribes:

- Programs may be adapted to the culture and context of the tribal community
- Tribes can contract with States for just the preventive services



Criteria for Evidence Based Programs (EBP)

Criteria for EBP

- Government wants to invest in programs that work
- There are programs that have gathered, measured and documented results
- The U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) has provided some guidance on criteria and a limited list of approved programs
- PI-18-09 – State Requirements for Electing Title IV-E Prevention and Family Services Programs Guidance was issued by the Children’s Bureau on November 30, 2019

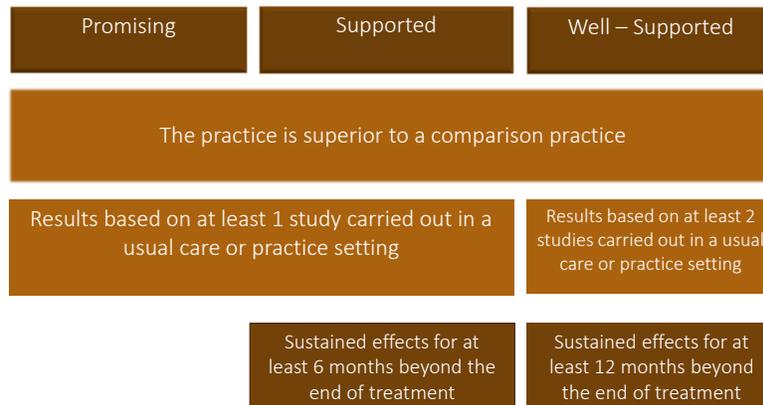
Criteria for EBP

Must meet one of three levels of evidence

- Promising
- Supported
- Well-Supported

AbT Associates has been selected to manage the Clearinghouse. <https://www.abtassociates.com/>

Criteria for EBP



Prevention Services Approved or Under Review Currently

Mental Health:

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy – **Well Supported**

Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy - **Supported**

Multisystemic Therapy – **Well Supported**

Functional Family Therapy – **Well Supported**

Substance Abuse:

Motivational Interviewing – Still under review

Multisystemic Therapy – **Well Supported**

Families Facing the Future - **Supported**

Methadone Maintenance Therapy – Still under review

Prevention Services Approved or Under Review Currently – (Cont.)

In-Home Parent Skill-Based:

Nurse-Family Partnership – Still under review

Healthy Families America - Still under review

Parents as Teachers – Well Supported

Kinship Navigator Programs

Children’s Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model – Does not meet criteria

Children’s Home Inc. Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech) – Does not meet criteria

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Role of the Juvenile Court

- Judges, lawyers, court staff, and court volunteers must be trained on FFPSA
- Judges need to be aware of available prevention services and establish standards and expectations regarding reasonable efforts to prevent removal
- Judges will need to make explicit Reasonable Efforts findings in court hearings pronouncing specific reasonable efforts to keep children with their family as well as making the specific fact findings in court orders

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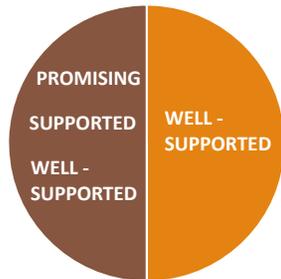
How would prevention services be paid for?

Reimbursement

For families who meet the candidacy threshold of “imminent risk of entering foster care”:

- Under the Social Security Act - Title IV-E
- 50% States/Tribes, 50% Federal
- No income test

Reimbursement



- 100% must be Promising, Supported or Well Supported programs
- At least 50% must be Well Supported programs

Keep in Mind - Challenges

- Qualified workforce and capacity issues
- Communities may not have adequate capacity to provide evidence based programs
- Programs for specific populations may not be available
- Expected higher cost of installing and maintaining evidence based programs
- State Funding must be available or appropriated to fund 50% match

Keep in Mind - Opportunities

- Because of Family First and the focus on prevention we can play *upstream* more
- Data can help determine who is on the trajectory for foster care that can help define eligibility
- The trauma of removal can be avoided and families can receive the help they need to successfully raise their children



DCS Planning for FFPSA

PREVENTION SERVICES

Develop qualifying programs - prevention

Arizona Families First (A.F.F.) – feedback from stakeholders and providers is that A.F.F. Substance Abuse Treatment continues to be an effective program

- Contracted with LeCroy & Milligan to complete submission for promising/supported practice programming
- Jan 2019 - Completed program GAP analysis
- February 2019 – Completed trauma-informed review and analysis
- March – Sept 2019 – revise practice model based on best practice and complete SOW
 - Looking to leverage existing approved EBP rather than create new

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Developing qualifying programs - prevention

In Home Preservation – Service is a staple of the array that prevents children from entering care where the Department is involved

- Completed survey of provider program elements being deployed.
- Results did not provide a conclusive path forward
- Technical Assistance from Chapin Hall and Children Bureau to map CPC's to behaviors and behaviors to EVP options
- This work will lead toward recommendations for programming that will be reviewed with stakeholders and providers
- Build Practice manual and SOW based on decisions from EVP review



Ensuring Appropriate Placement

FFPSA

- Prioritizes keeping children with family or the most family-like setting whenever possible
- Consistent with research that shows that children do best with families
- Acknowledges that for some, therapeutic group care can be the most appropriate placement for a period of time

Ensuring Appropriate Placement

- Beginning October 2019 - can delay up to 2021
- After 2 weeks in therapeutic or congregate care only the following can be claimed for reimbursement
 - Family Foster home (up to 6 children)
 - Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
 - Supervised independent living for youth 18+
 - Specialized placement for victims or at-risk of sex trafficking
 - Family-based residential treatment facility for substance abuse
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Licensed and accredited
- Trauma informed treatment model
- Registered /licensed nurse or clinical staff consistent with treatment model
- Have to outline outreach and engagement of family in treatment plan
- Have a discharge plan
- Provide at least 6 months of aftercare

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) - Eligibility

- An assessment completed within 30 days by a qualified professional who is not associated with the QRTP must determine that this setting best meets the needs of the child/youth.
- The assessment must be updated every 6 months by the independent professional and a new determination made that the setting continues to best meet the needs of the child/youth
- DCS must seek the permission of HHS for continued placement after 12 months

Role of the Juvenile Court

- Review and approval/disapproval of the assessment that the placement is the most effective and appropriate level of care in the least restrictive environment within 60 days of placement
- Review of DCS submitted evidence at each court status and permanency hearing that:
 - The child's needs continue to be best met by QRTP
 - The specific treatment and service needs to be met by the QRTP and expected duration of the needs
 - Document the agency's efforts to prepare the child for a less restrictive environment



DCS Planning for FFPSA

ENSURING APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT

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Enhancing the placement array

Continued efforts to reduce the use of Congregate Care

- AHCCCS/DCS are collaborating with technical assistance from Casey Family Programs on improving Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)
 - Policy is 95% complete
 - Improvements on TFC training launching this month
- DCS pending contract changes with Licensing Agencies will further incentivize and provide fiscal supports for placement of older youth into foster homes
 - Will compensate foster families and agency 2x standard for youth over 12
 - Looking to continue partnering with licensing agencies for recruitment, placement and supports with needs of foster care population

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Enhancing the Placement Array

Development of QRTP's

- DCS contract award for Group Homes defined several specialized cohort groups (Structured, Medically Fragile, Sexually Maladaptive, etc.)
- DCS currently evaluating grant awards to assist specialized cohort GH providers in becoming a Qualified Residential Treatment Program
- Policy for QRTP qualifications and OLR oversight is complete and in review

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**SELECT ADDITIONAL CHANGES &
CONTINUATIONS TO PROMOTE SAFETY,
PERMANENCY AND WELL-BEING**

Promoting Safety, Permanency and Well-being

- John Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood – Amended state options for extended care from age 21 to age 23 (AZ SB 1539 – to age 21); and for Education & Training Vouchers from age 23 up to age 26.
- Kinship Navigators - \$20M new funding
- Adoption & Guardianship Incentives - \$37M increase
- Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Grants - \$60M increase
- Home Visiting (MIECHV) - \$400M
- Head Start - \$610M increase
- Early Head Start - \$115M increase
- Child Care Block Grants - \$2.37B increase

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT TIMELINE: KEY DATES

Timeline: Key Upcoming Dates

October 2018

- States can claim Title IV-E foster care maintenance payment reimbursement for children in licensed residential family based treatment facility
- States can claim reimbursement of 50% of expenditure on evidence based kinship navigator programs (no programs currently meet this criteria)
- Tribes, can have as much additional time as the HHS Secretary determines necessary for them to implement

Timeline: Key Upcoming Dates

September 30, 2019

- All Title IV-E waivers end

October 2019

- States have option to offer prevention services (can begin at any point after this as long as congregate care/QRTP provisions are implemented or state elects to forego federal reimbursement for programs that do not meet standard)
- Congregate care/QRTP changes go into effect (option to delay up to 2 years)

October 2021

- End of opportunity to delay QRTP requirements

Questions?
