Recurrence of Child Maltreatment

Presentation to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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TexProtects
The Texas Association for the Protection of Children
12 Month Recurrence Over 15 Years

Percent of Children Re-abused

Source: 2015 DFPS Databook
5 Year Recurrence for Family Preservation and State Conservatorship

Population Increase: 22.5%
Recurrence Increase: 60%

Source: 2015 DFPS Databook
Defining Recurrence

- How recurrence is measured varies
- Two variables to consider:
  - What types of cases should we track?
  - How long should we track recurrence?
- Report to CPS: Strongest indicator in predicting serious injury and fatalities
- Research supports fallibility in the investigative process - we don’t always get it right.

Unmeasured Recurrence

- Of the 274,448 reports of child abuse to SWI:
- 46,336 Screened Out and closed *without* an investigation
- 116,316 Ruled Out Reports
- 16,696 Unable to Determine Reports
- 3,350 Unable to Complete Reports
- 60% of reports to CPS are from professionals, but only 23% (40,506) are substantiated by CPS.

Source: 2015 DFPS Databook
Family Preservation and Foster Care: Recurrence

- 5 year recurrence rate for Family Preservation/Conservatorship (2010): 17.6%
  (10,200 / 52,800 children re-victimized)
- Only 10% of investigations referred to family preservation services
- $356 dollars spent on services per family for Family Preservation: Insufficient for recovery
- 4% of investigations result in removal of children
- $403,000,000 spent on foster care annually

Source: 2015 DFPS Databook
SafeCare: Evidence Based Alternative for CPS Families

- Family Support Home Visiting for families with CPS case
- Successful prevention of re-entry of children into CPS
- 26% less recurrence vs. services as usual (FBSS)
- Three components: child safety, parent child interaction, child development
- Targeted to families with children ages 0-5
- 18-20 once a week sessions (service duration 5-6 months)
- Currently funded by PEI in 3 counties: Cameron, Webb, Taylor

Preventing Recurrence in Open Cases

- Roughly 15% of child fatalities occur in cases open to CPS at the time of death*
- An additional 30% of child fatalities had previous CPS involvement
- Inconclusive data on serious incidents/near fatalities on open cases
- Risk readings early in a case and at closure can help avert serious incidents
- Child Safety Specialists should complete *secondary reads* on high risk and very high risk cases, regardless of age/disposition/referral to Family Preservation.

Source: DFPS A Better Understanding of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities
Contact

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