



CHILDREN WITHOUT PLACEMENT AGENCY EFFORTS

PRIORITY

GOAL

ACTIONS



CARE

Augment the structure and staffing of DFPS Supervision sites, providing an environment that incentivizes positive youth behaviors while prioritizing the safety of both youth and caseworkers.

- **Pilot in Regions 6 & 7** targeted at behavior modification for youth to establish added structure, youth incentives, and staff responsibilities
- Additional staff training for pilot participants, including de-escalation techniques
- Hiring dedicated positions
- Increased **temporary staffing**
- Placement staffings
- **Expediting placement referrals** to Residential Treatment Placement Coordinators and for Child Specific Contract searches
- Law enforcement engagement
- **Clinical coordinators** to support with caseworker tasks when a child/youth is in DFPS Supervision

- Policy updates to support staff wellbeing by **limiting the number of DFPS Supervision shifts** allowable
- **Trafficking assessment**
- Missing youth searches
- **DFPS Temporary Housing Implementation Plan**
- **Convening of State Agencies and Stakeholders**
- **Pathways to Placement**
- **Interagency Critical Case Meetings**
- **Children's Mental Health Strategic Plan Subcommittee**



CAPACITY

Enhance the capacity and stability of kinship and licensed placements while streamlining DFPS placement processes.

- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (**QRTP**), Intensive Psychiatric Stabilization Program (**IPSP**), and Treatment Family Foster Care (**TFFC**) expansion
- Temporary Emergency Placement (**TEP**) expansion
- Placement process improvement and **additional staffing**
- **Emergency Shelter Partnership**

- Training for staff regarding engaging kin and placement with kinship.
- Developing strategies to increase 1st placements with kinship
- **Updating kinship policies to strengthen kinship practices**
- Expanded and flexible Kinship spending
- **Provider Clinical and Programmatic Support**



SERVICES

Support programs and services to meet the specific needs of youth in DFPS Supervision, with a focus on preparing older youth for successful transitions to independence and self-sufficiency within appropriate placements.

- Focus on services and support, such as preparation for adult living, housing, job opportunities, and other **basic life skills**
- **Utilize behavioral health funding for youth crisis outreach and extended inpatient hospital support**
- **Partnering youth with mentor support**

- Ensure every youth is referred for a **Circle of Support**
- Providing up to date **mental health resources** to staff through broadcasts and Job Aids
- Ensure therapeutic supports are scheduled for youth regardless of participation



DIVERSION

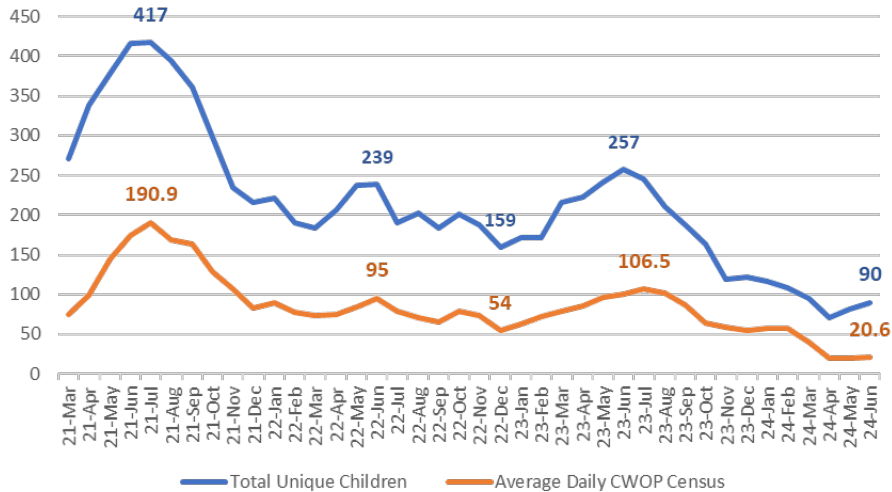
Implement actions to divert children and youth from entering state custody as appropriate through effective intervention strategies and alternative support systems, promoting family preservation and community-based solutions.

- Collaborate with HHSC to support access to behavioral health resources and additional funding to prevent removals as a result of refusal to accept parental responsibility
- Increased use of **Alternative Response**
- Increased use of Behavioral Health Resources

- **Focus on least restrictive environment**
- **Partnership with Juvenile Justice**
- **Increased communication with psychiatric hospitals**
- **Emphasis on first placement with kinship**

Children Without Placement Data

Total Children Without Placement

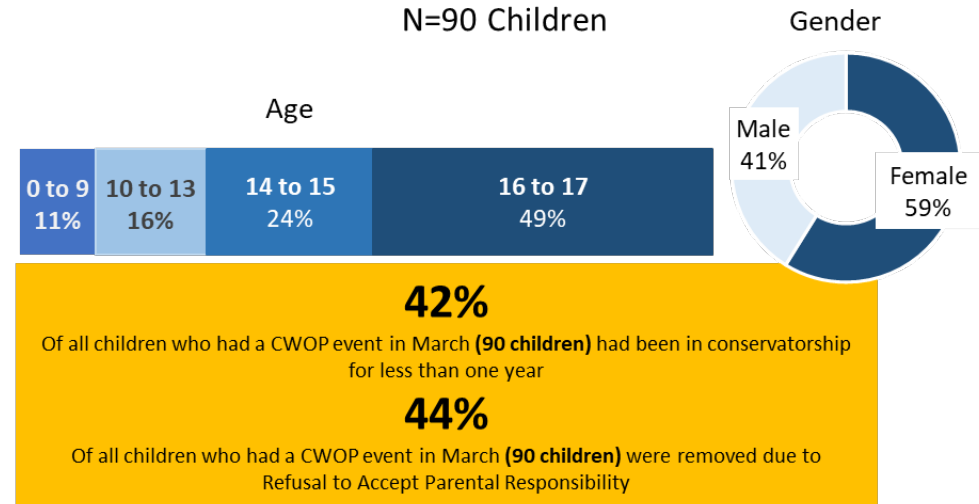


Definition: A child without placement event refers to when a child or youth was without placement for at least two consecutive, uninterrupted nights. If a youth goes missing during a child without placement event, the youth will be in a missing status rather than a child without placement event to ensure protocols are followed to ensure the safe return of a youth. If the youth returns from the missing event, a new event starts after at least two consecutive, uninterrupted nights.

Children Without Placement

June 2024

N=90 Children



42%
Of all children who had a CWOP event in March (90 children) had been in conservatorship for less than one year

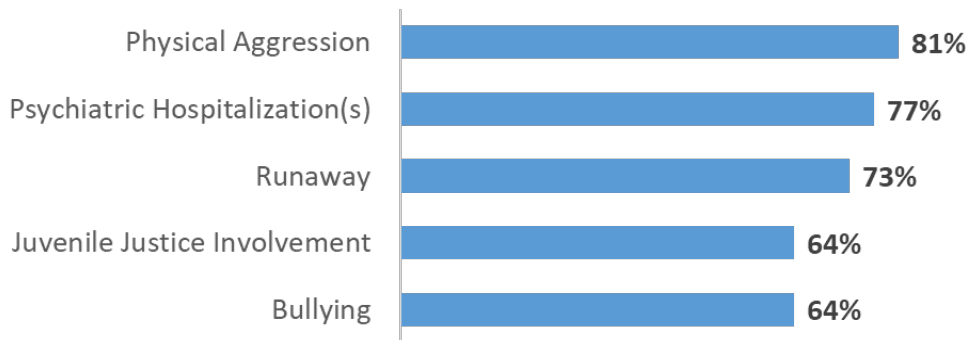
44%
Of all children who had a CWOP event in March (90 children) were removed due to Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility

Top 5 Child Characteristics/Needs

June 2024

N=105 Events

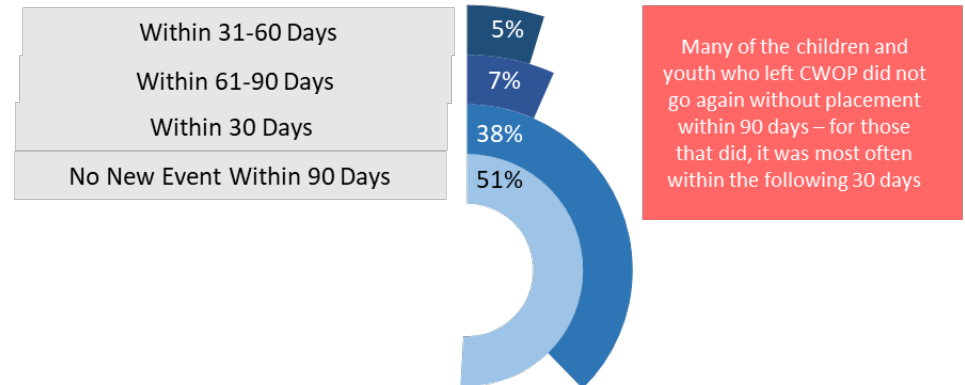
Children without placement have complex needs



Subsequent CWOP Event for CWOP Events

Ending in March 2024

N= 106 events



Many of the children and youth who left CWOP did not go again without placement within 90 days – for those that did, it was most often within the following 30 days