



# 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.

- **DFPS Temporary Emergency Care Pilot Sites**
- 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
- **Convening of State Agencies and Stakeholders**
- **Pathways to Placement**
- **Interagency Critical Case Meetings**
- **Children's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan Subcommittee**
- **Placement Support Staffings**
- Placement **Stabilization and Support Team**



### CAPACITY

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

- Evaluating Qualified Residential Treatment Program (**QRTP**), Intensive Psychiatric Stabilization Program (**IPSP**), and Treatment Family Foster Care (**TFFC**)
- 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

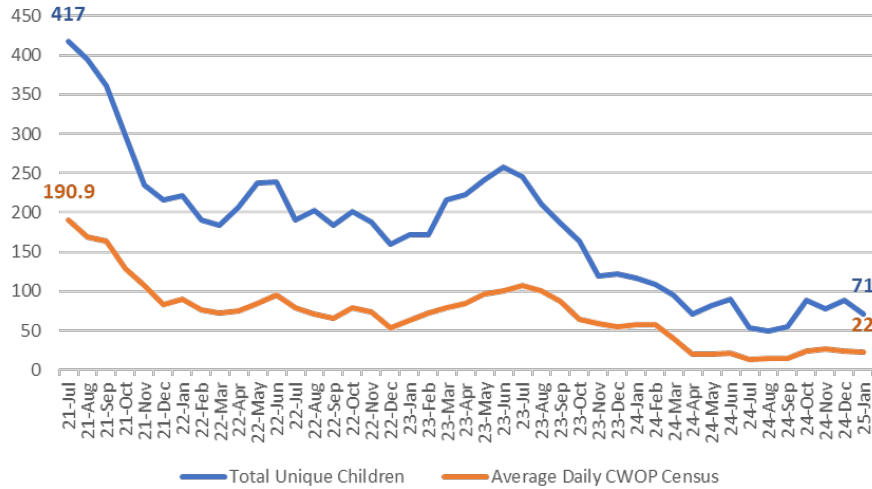
Implement actions to divert children and youth from entering state custody as appropriate through effective intervention strategies and alternative support systems, promoting family preservation and community-based solutions.

- 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

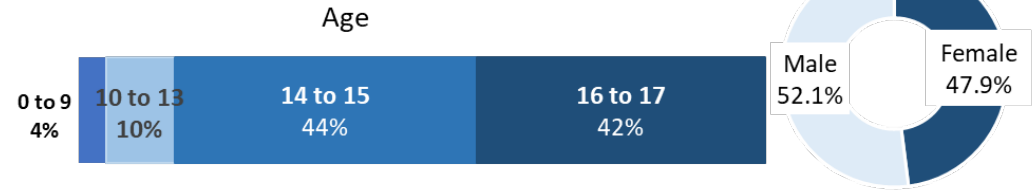
### Total Children Without Placement



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

January 2025  
N=71 Children

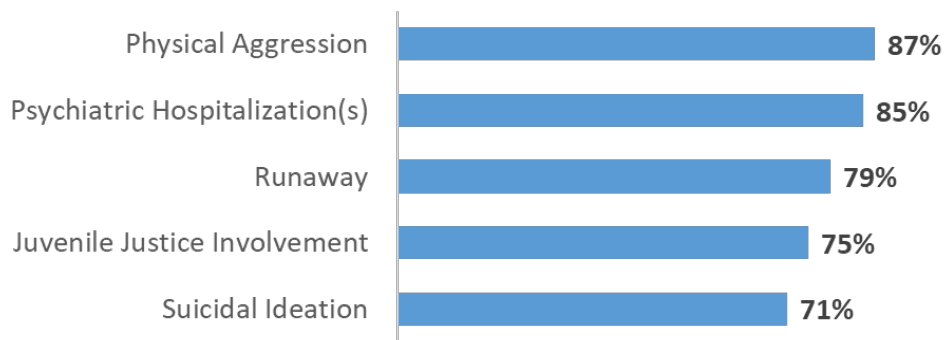


**23%**  
Of all children who had a CWOP event in January 2025 (**71 children**) had been in conservatorship for less than one year

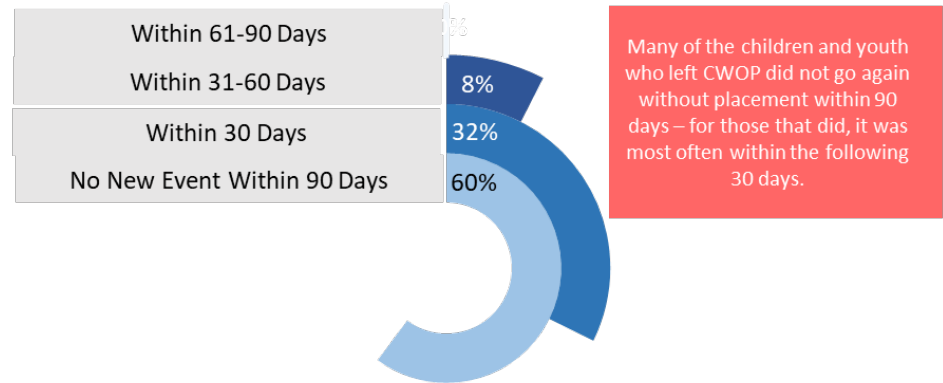
**37%**  
Of all children who had a CWOP event in January 2025 (**71 children**) were removed due to Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility

### Top 5 Child Characteristics/Needs January 2025 N=84 Events

Children without placement have complex needs



### Subsequent CWOP Event for CWOP Events Ending in October 2024 N= 93 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.