What is DFCS?

- Department of Family and Children Services
- Government agency providing services to children and families when a child has been abused and/or neglected
- Provides voluntary (Path 1 and Path 2) and court-mandated services
- Goal: Ensure the safety and well-being of children
Abuse and Neglect

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Severe neglect
- General Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Absent parent/guardian
Role of the Social Worker

- Comprehensive assessments of children and families
- Collect information via interviews
- Identify strengths and areas of concern
- Assess progress on an on-going basis
- Set goals with parents to ensure completion of case plan
- Provide referrals for services to meet case plan goals
Role of the Social Worker

- Evaluate risk of future maltreatment to each child
- Intervene when necessary
- Make recommendations to the court to ensure child’s safety
- Prepare court reports
- Develop case plans
Role of the Social Worker

- Liaison with key people in child’s life
  - Parents
  - Relatives
  - Teachers
  - Doctors, therapists
  - Attorneys
  - Court
  - Caregivers
  - Child Advocate
Child Abuse and Neglect Center (CANC)

Initial Phone Call

- Joint Response (JR)
- Immediate Response (2 hours) (IR)
- General Response (10 days) (ER)

JR/IR/ER Report is assigned to a social worker for action
Emergency Response

- Social Worker makes assessment
  - Substantiate, inconclusive, unfounded

If substantiated:

  - Close, refer to Community Based Organization (CBO) (Path 1 and Path 2)
  - Voluntary Family maintenance (VFM) (Path 2)
  - Informal Supervision (IS) (Path 2)
  - Protective custody (PC)
    - Receiving Center (23hrs and 59 minutes)
    - Emergency Satellite Home (ESH)
  - Relative’s home
  - Group Home

- If protective custody, transfer to Dependency Investigation (DI)
Dependency Investigation (DI)

- DI Worker conducts initial investigation
  - Informal Supervision (IS)
    - Transfer case to IS unit
    - File petition
    - Detention hearing (48 hours)
  - Further investigation
    - Jurisdictional/Dispositional hearing (15 days)
- Transfer to a continuing unit
  - Family Maintenance (FM)
  - Family Reunification (FR)
Recommendations to the Court

- Family Maintenance
- Family Reunification
- Permanency Planning
- Concurrent Planning

Finding a permanent placement for the child if the parents fail to reunify
Family Maintenance (FM)

- Deliver case plan services
- 6 month review
  
  Case Dismissed
  Continue FM (additional 6 months)

If child is removed from home, offer Family Reunification Services
Family Reunification (FR)

- Deliver case plan services
- Concurrent planning
- Visitation
  - Social Worker I
  - Relative, NREFM or Foster parents
- 6/12 month review
  - Continue FR
  - Return child home with Family Maintenance Services
Permanency Planning (PP)

- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Permanent Plan Living Arrangement
Placements

- Relatives
- Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM)
- Resource Family Home (RFA) (foster home)
- Group Home (phasing out to STRT)
- Residential Treatment Facility (Level 14): Uplift Family Services, Rebekah Children’s Services (RCS)
- Out of County
Team Decision Making (TDM)

- Occurs when placement changes
- Includes: Parents, family members, Social Worker, Prospective placement, Therapist, Child, Child Advocate

Purpose: Make a team decision on the child’s placement

Coming Soon- Child Family Team (CFT) Meetings
(not just for placements)
Mental Health Services

- Individual Therapist (Outpatient)
- Systems of Care (SOC)
- Wraparound/ (ITWS) Intensive Targeted Wraparound Services
- Therapeutic Behavior Services (TBS)
Developing the Partnership
Teambuilding with DFCS Social Workers

- Develop an ongoing relationship with child’s Social Worker
- Communicate important information to Social Workers about the child as well as obtaining information about the child from the Social Worker. **Best way to reach SW is by email.**
- Provide the Social Worker information about your recommendations concerning the child prior to the court hearing
Child Advocates Ongoing Partnership with DFCS Social Workers

- Keep worker updated on how child is doing, information about child, concerns child may have, etc
- No surprises (for example) bringing up something very important at the court hearing and not having told the Social Worker prior to court.
Child Advocates Role with the child

- Provide support
- Individual attention to child
- Special time with child
- A CASA is a someone in the child’s life who is seen as less of a threat and not necessarily connected with DFCS/System
- Advocating for the child, without telling Social Worker what to do
- Being a “buddy” to the child