



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
JANUARY 26, 2017

Mission & Mandates

DCF's mission is working together with families & communities for children who are healthy, safe, smart & strong.

DCF's has a consolidated statutory mandate over:

- Child Welfare
- Children's Behavioral Health
- Juvenile Justice
- Prevention
- Education

Seven Cross-Cutting Themes

1. ***A family-centered approach*** to all service delivery, reflected in development and implementation of a Strengthening Families Practice Model and the Differential Response System;
2. ***Trauma-informed practice*** as related to children and families but also to the workforce that serves them;
3. **Addressing racial inequities** in all areas of our practice;
4. ***Application of the neuroscience*** of child and adolescent development to agency policy, practice and programs;
5. ***Development*** of stronger community partnerships;
6. ***Improvements*** in leadership, management, supervision and accountability; and
7. ***Establishment*** of a Department culture as a learning organization.

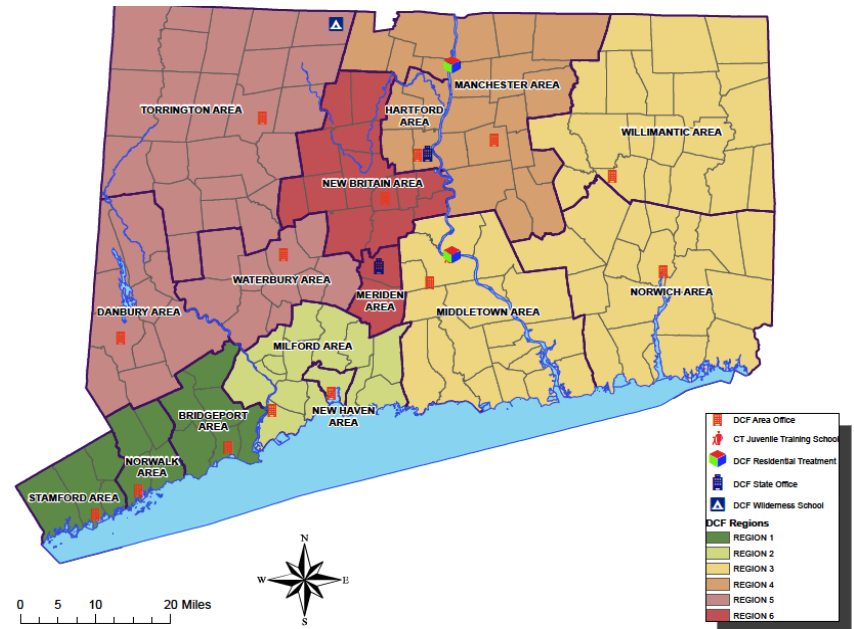
Regions and Facilities

Regional/Area Offices

- Region 1: Bridgeport, Norwalk
- Region 2: Milford, New Haven
- Region 3: Middletown, Norwich, Willimantic
- Region 4: Hartford, Manchester
- Region 5: Danbury, Torrington, Waterbury
- Region 6: Meriden, New Britain

Facilities

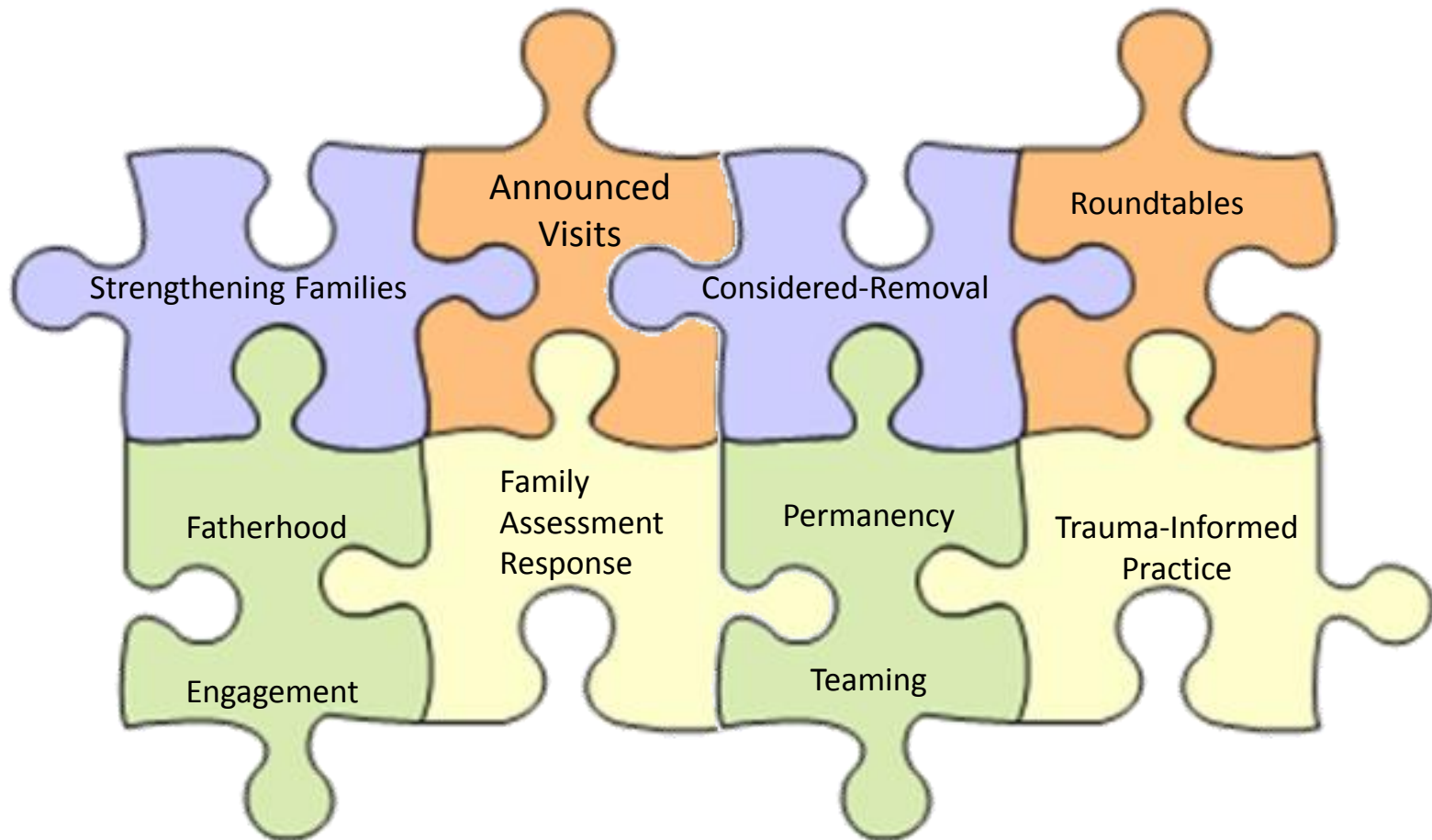
- Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS)
- Albert J. Solnit Children's Psychiatric Center – North & South Campuses
- Wilderness School



DCF SNAPSHOT

- DCF's Careline received 109,186 calls in 2016:
 - 52,417 were reports of child abuse or neglect
 - 31,480 reports received an Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigation or Family Assessment Response (FAR).
 - For responses of both types, 95% were commenced in a timely manner and 85% were completed within 45 days.
- At any point in time, the Department serves:
 - Approximately 26,000 children and 11,500 families
 - 14,000 open cases with 2,500 investigations and 2,000 family assessments underway
 - Approximately, 4,200 children in placement:
 - 42% are with families or fictive kin
 - 11% in congregate settings
 - 300 children who are not committed to DCF receive voluntary services.
- Staffing: Over 3,200 employees
- Annual operating budget: \$800 million

Practice Transformations

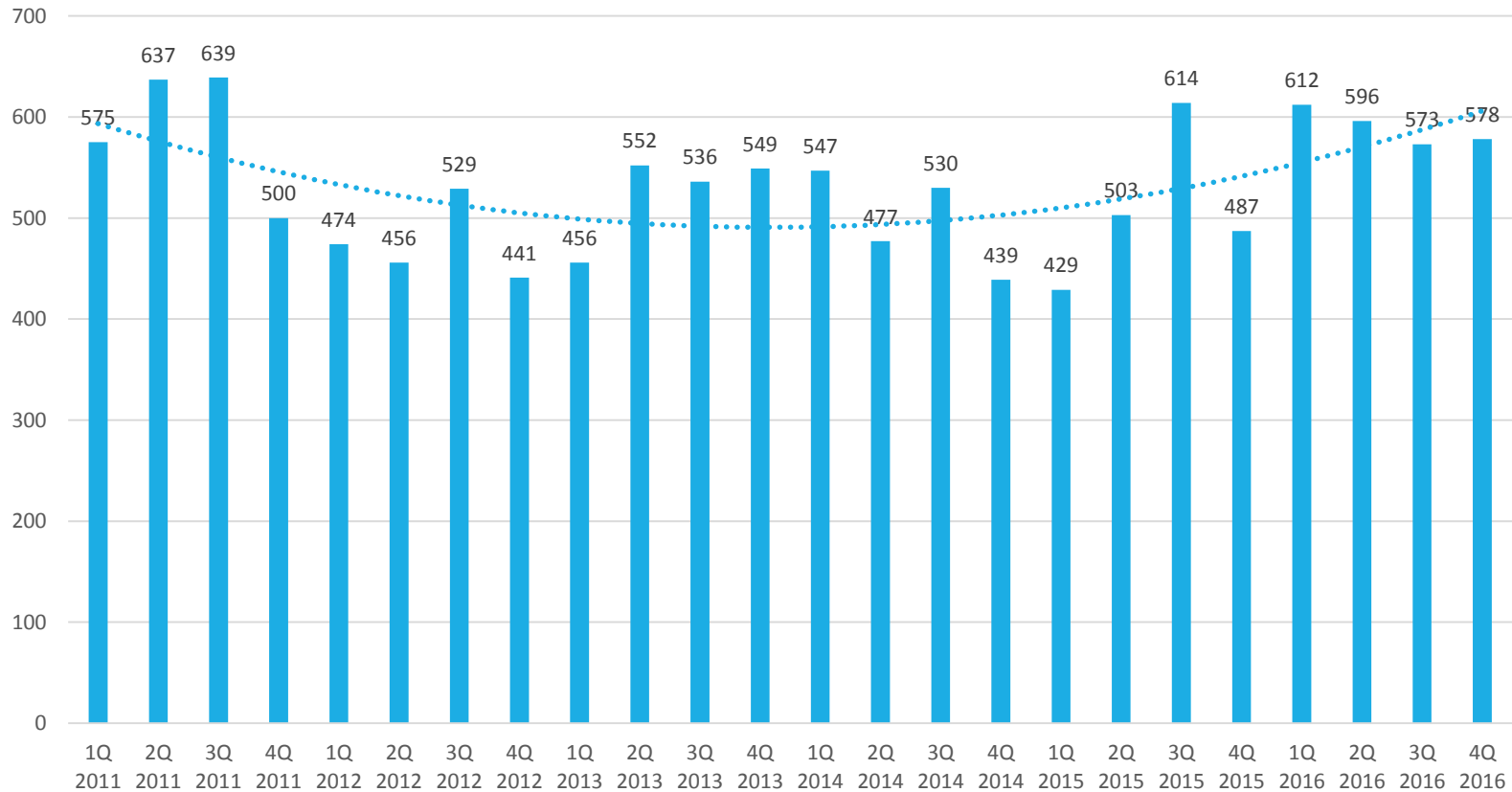


System Transformations & Practice Reforms

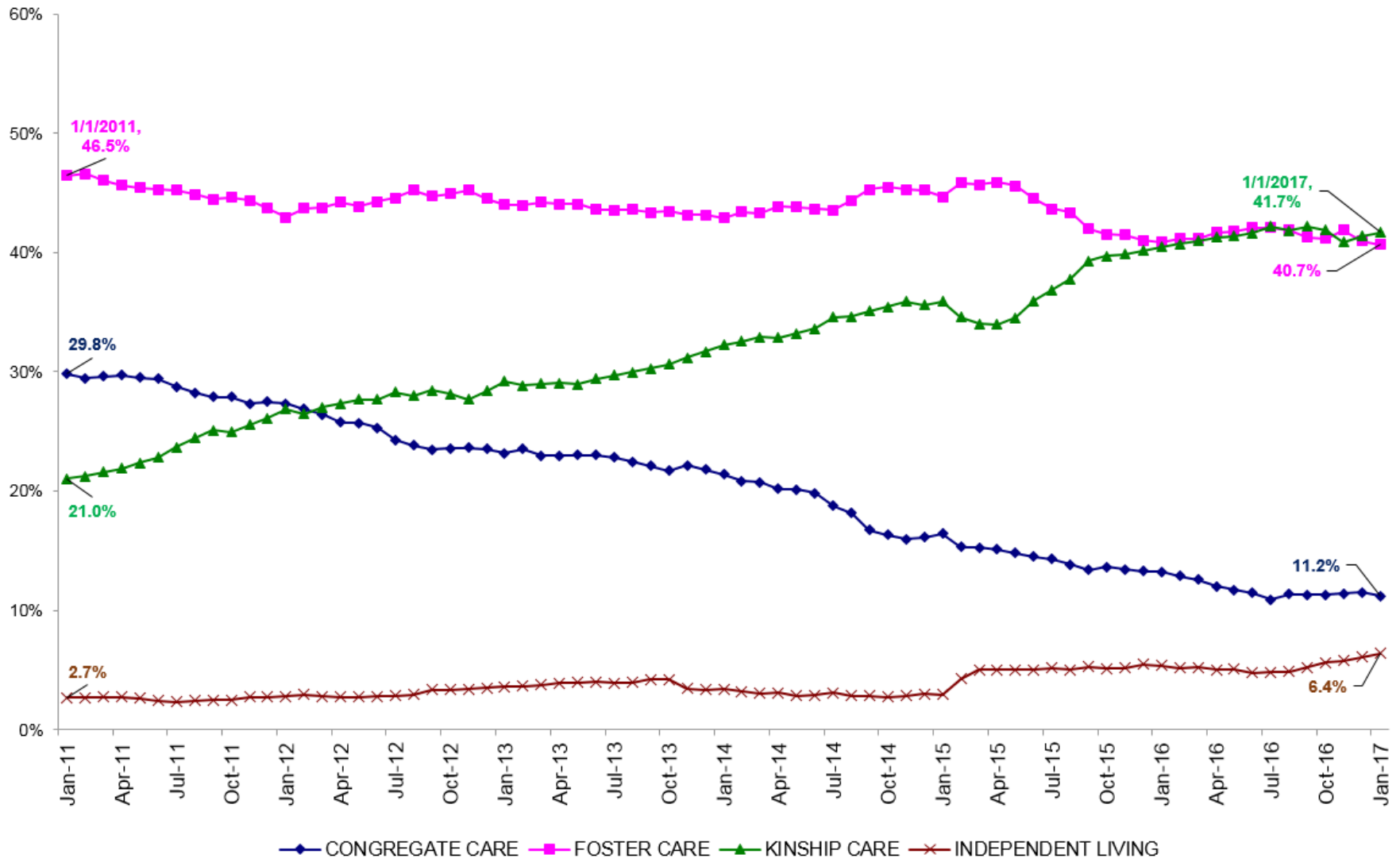
Since 2011, DCF has implemented the following practice reforms leading to improved outcomes for children & families:

- Reductions in use of congregate care
 - Restrictions on use for children under 12 years of age
 - Restrictions on out-of-state placements driven by clinical & geographic needs
 - Strong focus on reducing length of stay
- Investments in community-based services (.79 for every \$1)
- Implementation of Differential Response System (DRS)
 - Family Assessment Response (FAR)
- Reductions in Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA) as permanency goal
- Increased placements with family and fictive kin
- Implementation of a full teaming continuum
- Enhanced focus on racial justice lens throughout DCF

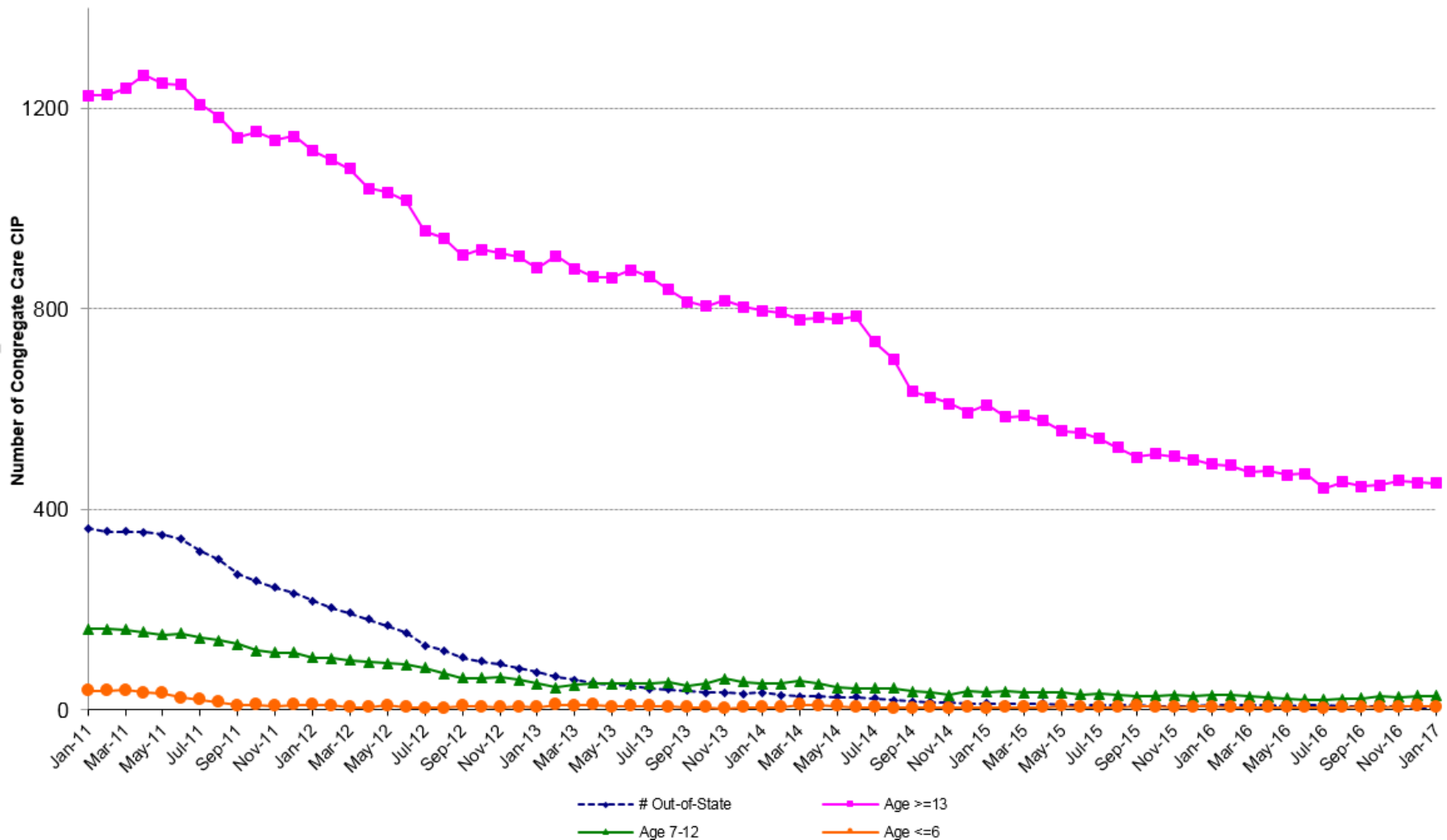
Entries into DCF Care per Quarter 2011 - 2016



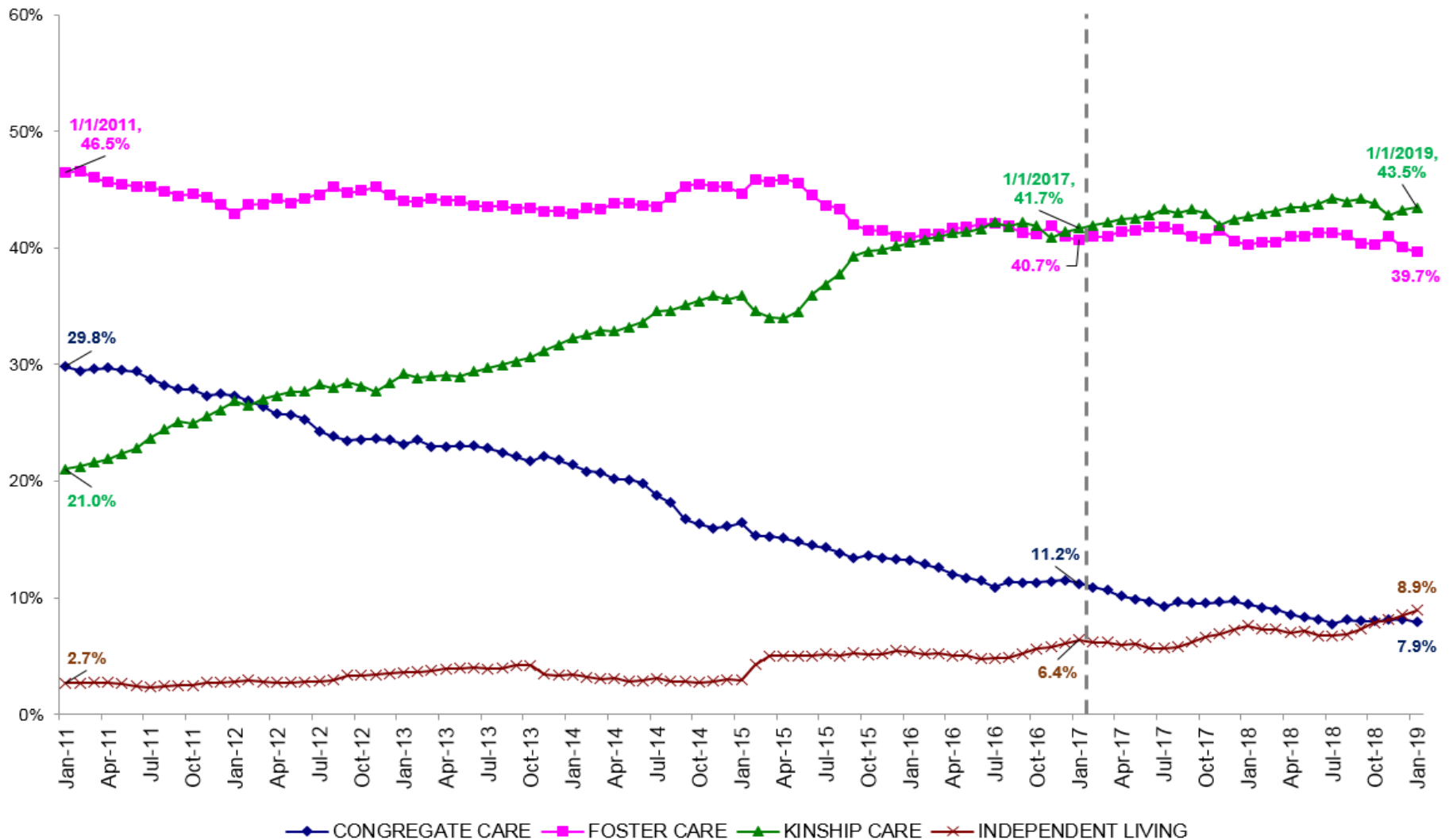
Children in Placement by Placement Type



Children in Congregate Care: Age Group & Out-of-State



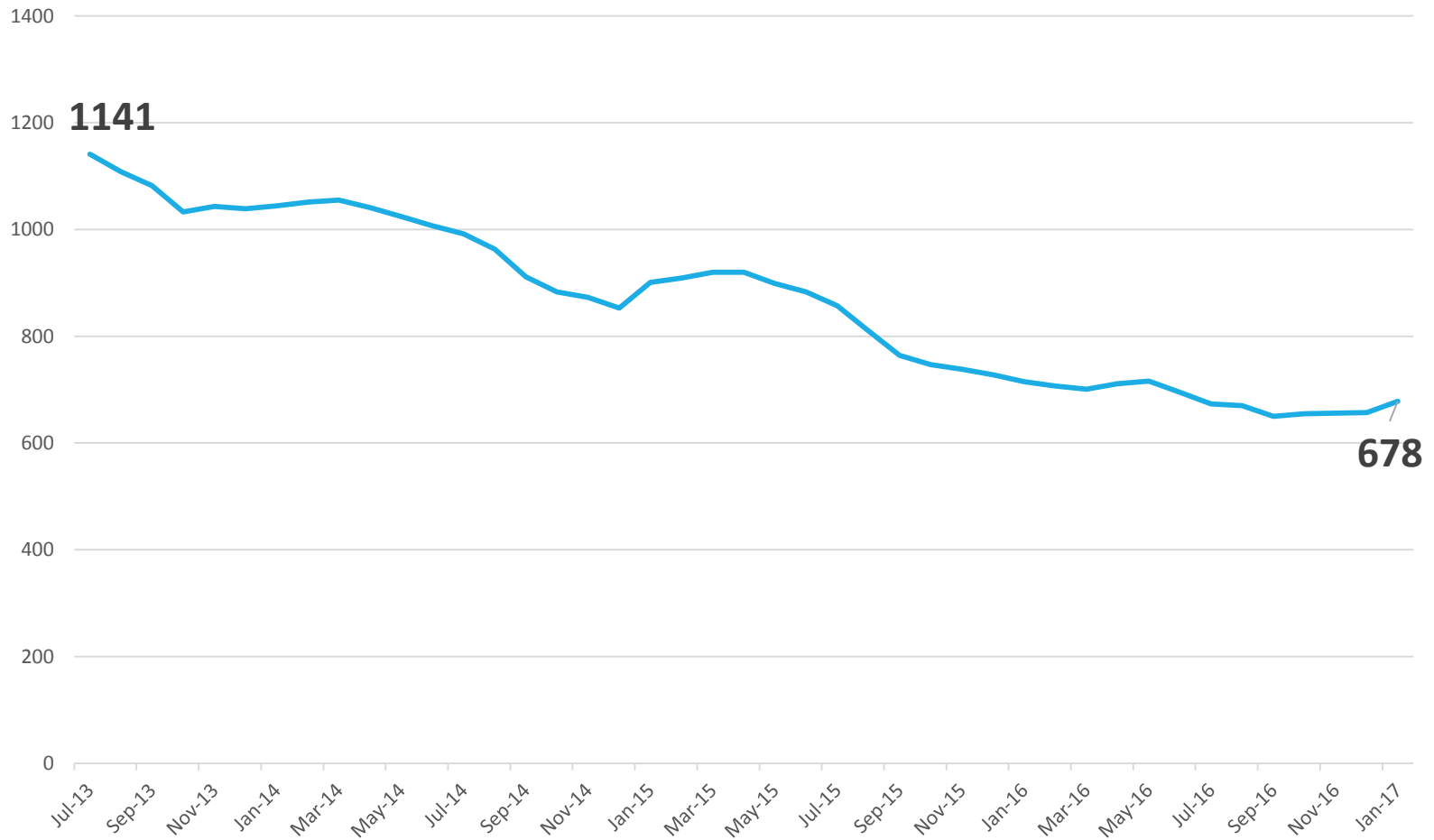
Projections of Children in Placement by Placement Type



PERMANENCY GOALS

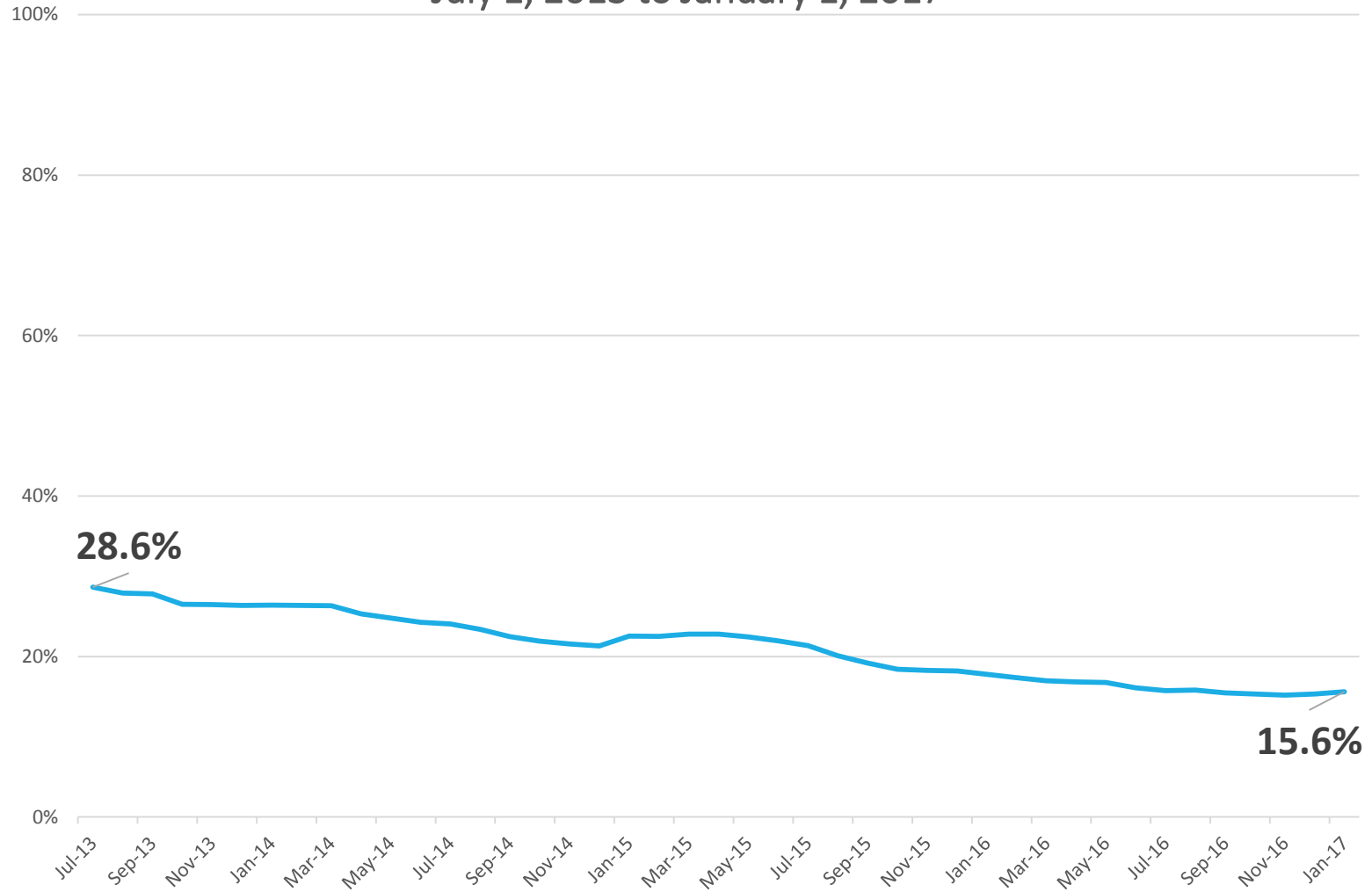
Reductions in Number of Children with OPPLA

July 1, 2013 to January 1, 2017



Percent of Children with OPPLA Goal

July 1, 2013 to January 1, 2017



2017 Progress Highlights

- 7.6% % reduction in DCF caseload
- 9.2% reduction in the number of children in placement
- 80% increase in the number of children placed with relatives & kin
- 99 % reduction in the number of children placed in out-of-state congregate care settings
- 82.4% of children in placement are living with a family, compared to 67.5% in 2011

SFY 17 Compared to SFY 11

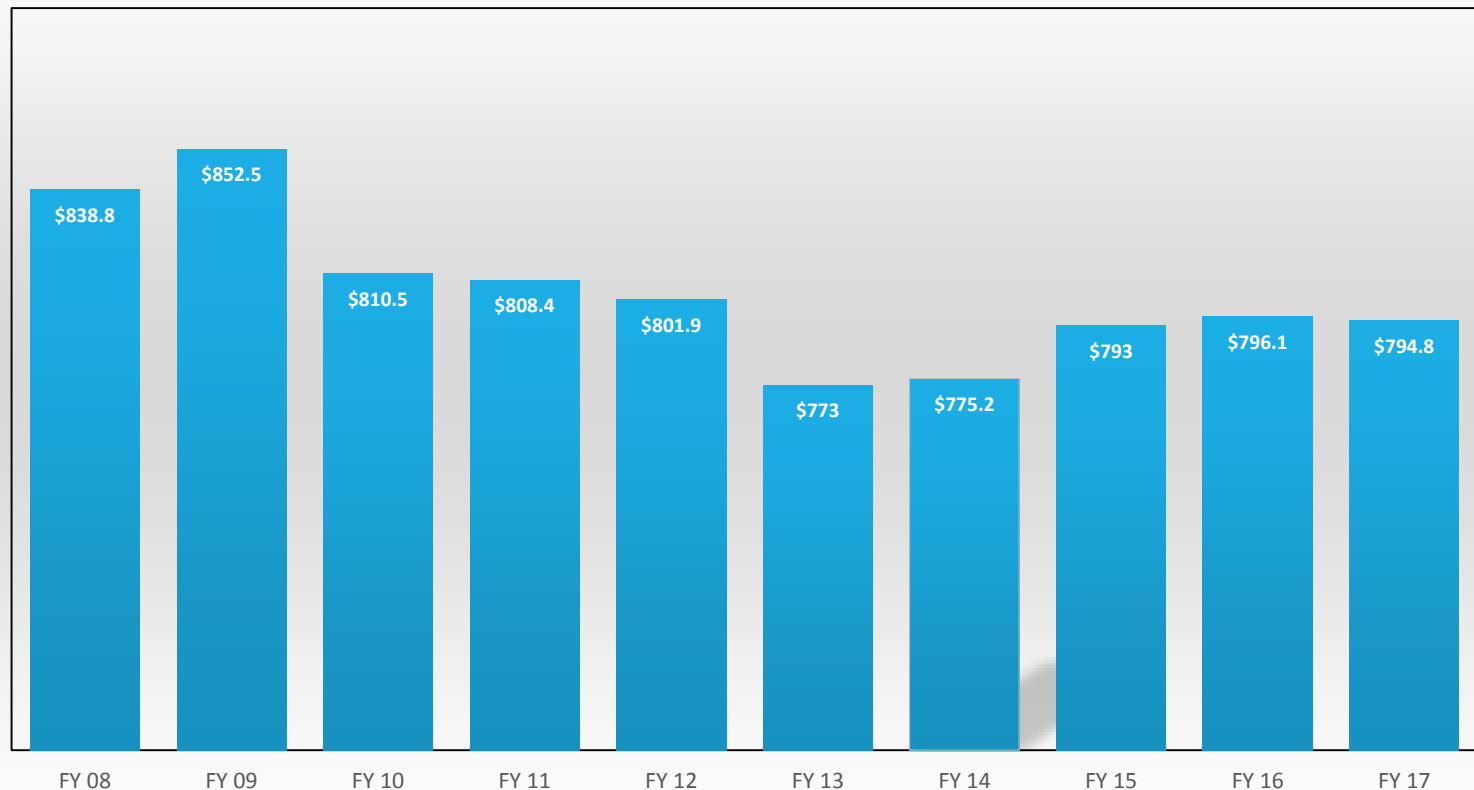
- 42 fewer congregate settings
- 888 fewer congregate beds being used (in-state and out-of-state)
- \$58,942,899 more spending in community-based services
- \$75,292,132 less spending in congregate care



\$.79 of every dollar saved in
congregate care has been reinvested
in community-based services

DCF Expenditures FY 08 – FY 17

DCF
Actual General Fund Expenditures
(In Millions)



Source: Office of Fiscal Analysis, Connecticut General Assembly, Budget Books FY 08 through FY 15.

FY 16 expenditures based on preliminary estimates.

FY 17 expenditures based on revised appropriation.

2016 Child Outcomes

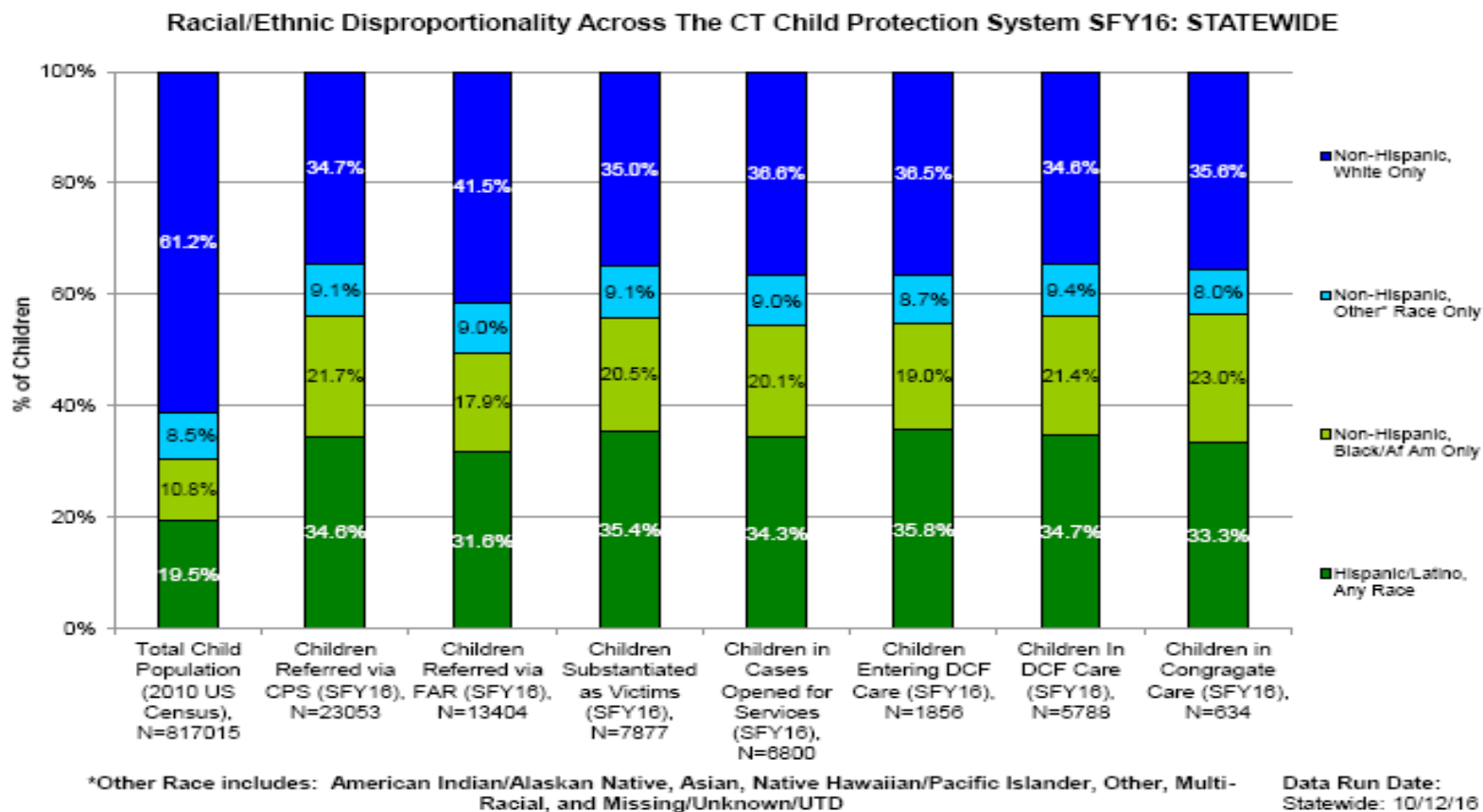
Child Safety & Stability

- 93.8% of children in in-home cases were not victims of repeat maltreatment (exceeding Juan F. standard)
- 99.8% of children in foster care were not victims of repeat maltreatment (exceeding Juan F. standard)
- 96.2% of children entering care did not have a foster care episode in the previous 12 months (exceeding Juan F. standard)
- 96.7% of children in care did not have multiple placements within 12 months (exceeding Juan F. standard)
- 95.6% of relative homes had no allegations of maltreatment (99.7% of relative homes were free of substantiations for maltreatment)

Permanency & Well-Being

- 65.6 % of reunifications in 2016 happened within 12 months (exceeding Juan F. standard)
- 38.5% of adoptions in 2014 happened within 24 months (exceeding Juan F. standard)

Racial Disproportionality of DCF Served Families



Opportunities

- Enhanced provider partnerships to support children and families:
 - Support for crisis respite/stabilization (SFIT)
 - Community-based services
- Better integration of child welfare & juvenile justice work
- Supports for kin through subsidized transfer of guardianship (TOG) legislation
- Children's Behavioral Health Plan
- DCF Teaming Continuum
- Revised Juan F. Exit Plan
- Connecticut's Pay for Success Family Stability Project
- Virtual Academy

QUESTIONS?