

CONNECTICUT'S RESPONSE TO FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Co-Leads

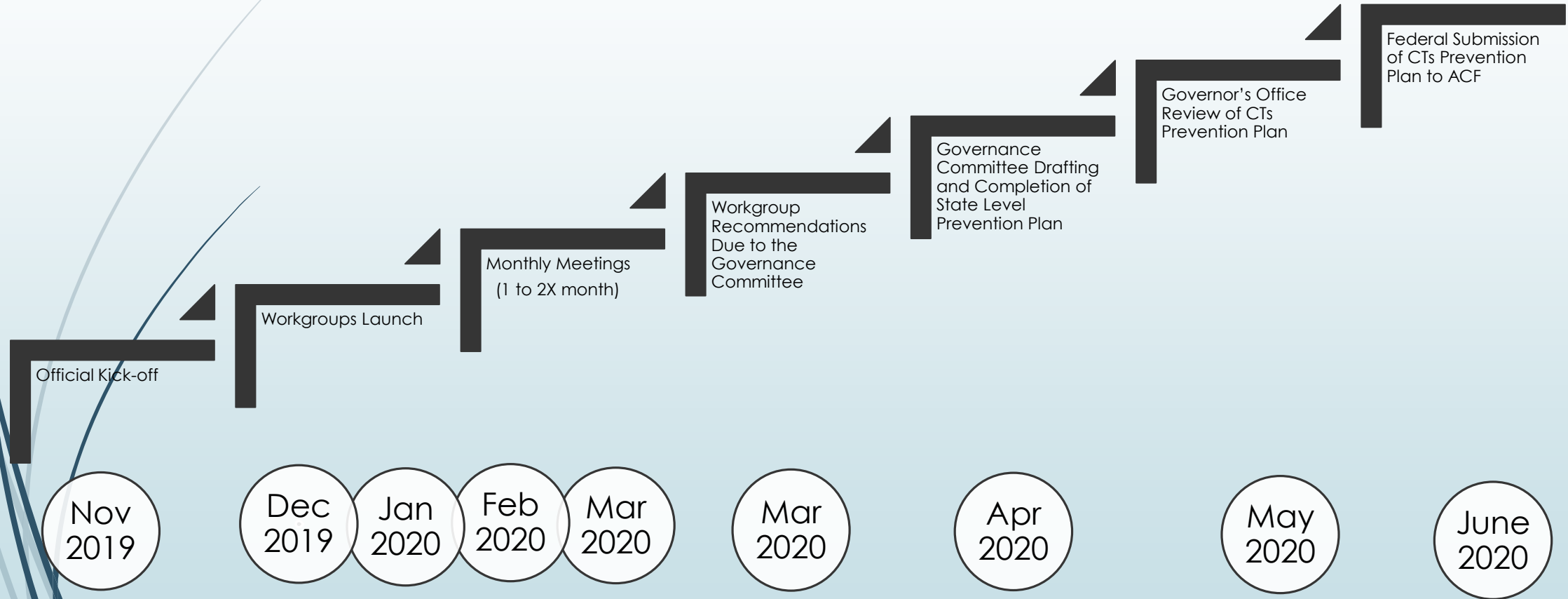
JoShonda Guerrier and Ken Mysogland



What is the Family First Prevention Services Act?

- Passed via Bipartisan legislation in 2018
- Based on the core principles of:
 - Children safely remaining at home
 - Relative and Kinship placements are the priority if removal is necessary
 - Congregate is a time limited treatment intervention
- “Candidate for Foster Care”
- Federal reimbursement for evidenced based services and QRTP congregate care facilities
- Tool in the overall State of Connecticut Prevention Plan

FAMILY FIRST PLANNING CYCLE



ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION DATE...



Pending Administration for Children and Families Approval



ESTABLISHED WORKGROUPS



Candidacy

Programs &
Service Array

Kinship & Foster
Care

Fiscal & Revenue
Enhancement

Community
Partnerships &
Family and Child
Engagement



“Candidate for Foster Care”

1. Families with accepted Careline calls
2. Families who have been accepted for Voluntary services
3. Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
4. Siblings of children in foster care
5. Youth exiting to permanency or youth aging out of DCF foster care
6. Children with certain characteristics who are identified through a community or neighborhood pathway



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS TO DATE

Lessons learned:

- Overwhelming support for the philosophy of Family First
- Recognize keeping children home and in the least restrictive environment is best for children and families
- Solid infrastructure and base to build upon
- Immense eagerness within the stakeholder community to get involved
- Consistency in believing Connecticut has a strong array of services, and once coordinated, the state will be postured to deploy the optimal system



ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

Risk Aversive Tendency

► ***We must shift to a Safety Culture***

Collective Impact Child Protection Services

► Embed work across agencies to align all systems and services

Service Model Changes

► Positions available services to match assessed need

Communication and the Speed of Change



WHY IT'S WORTH IT?

- Parents are better equipped, supported and trained to raise their own children, resulting in overall better outcomes for children and families
- Children maintain their culture, connection to community ties, and access to their extended families
- Workers gain access to tools, resources and services to assist in their efforts to better serve children and families
- Connecticut continues to build upon its prior efforts to ensure the delivery of quality services to include evidence based practices
- Overall cost savings to the system of care



THANK YOU!

Reminders:

To sign-up for a Workgroup email: dcfctfamilyfirst@ct.gov

Resources:

National Family First Information: www.familyfirstact.org

Connecticut Family First Website: CTFamilyFirst.ct.gov

Contact Information for Co-Leads

External Community

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