


FROM ASPIRATION TO ACTION: ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH

Beyond the Bench Conference 2015
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Theresa Peleska – County of San Diego CWS

 LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO


A YOUTH'S STORY  LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

SHANE'S STORY OF AGING OUT




 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76LqMnBZV-0> 



WHAT IS A PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE?


 LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO


A PROFESSIONAL CASE CONSULTATION WHICH IS:

- Structured
- In-Depth
- Non-Blaming
- Relentless





PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 

MULTI-LEVEL STRATEGY 

Micro Level	Professional Case Consultation
"Real Time" Learning Lab	Professional Development
Macro Level	Systems Improvement


 

ROUNDTABLE GOALS 

- Expedite **legal permanency** for the child
- Stimulate thinking and **learning** about ways to accelerate permanency
- Identify and address **systemic barriers** to expedited permanency



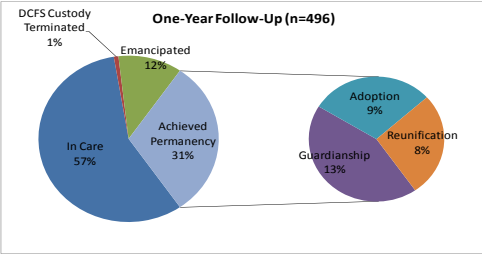
GEORGIA PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 



EXTERNAL OUTCOME EVALUATION

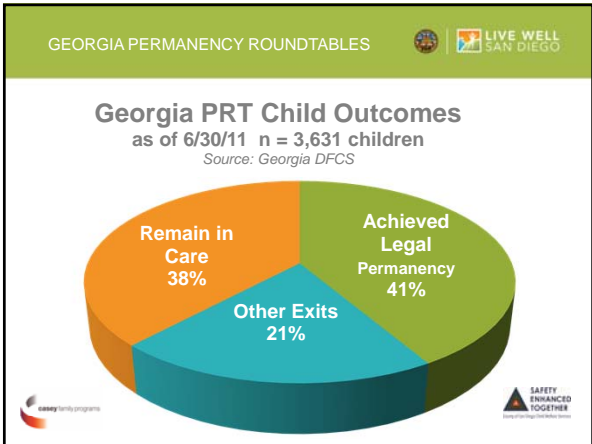
DCFS Custody Terminated 1%
Emancipated 12%
Achieved Permanency 31%
In Care 57%

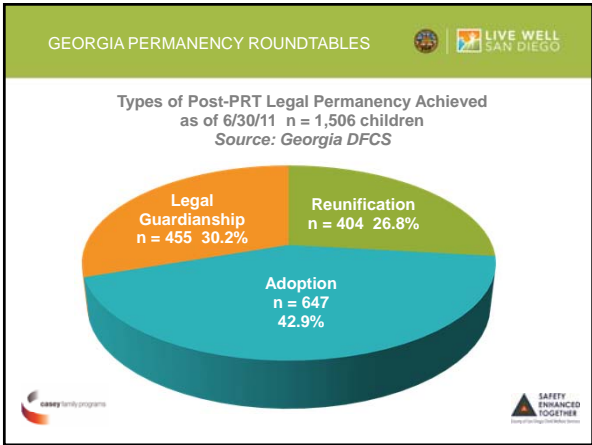
One-Year Follow-Up (n=496)


Adoption 9%
Reunification 8%
Guardianship 13%







PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 

VALUES

URGENCY

- relentless insistence on permanency – no excuses

TEAMING


- team supports the worker to expedite permanency
- solution-focused and NON-BLAMING
- concrete assistance with implementing action plan tasks


OUTCOMES

- learning and accountability leads to positive outcomes

OPTIMISM

- developing creative strategies in a demanding, yet supportive environment leads to increased hope and energy






PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 

TEAM MEMBERS

- Facilitator
- Permanency Consultants
 - Internal and external
- Transcriber
- Caseworkers
- Supervisors
- Others







PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 

PHASES

- I. Welcome and overview
- II. Present the case
- III. Clarify and explore
- IV. Brainstorm
- V. Create permanency action plan
- VI. Debrief roundtable






HOW WE GOT STARTED 

JAMES' STORY

- Entered into foster care at the age of one
- Placements: 6 licensed foster homes, 9 Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes, 8 group homes, and 22 stays at emergency shelter
- Incarcerated as an adult








DISCOVERY PROCESS 

OLDER YOUTH LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



- Five Jurisdictions (Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, San Diego County, Tennessee, Travis County TX)
- Goal to improve outcomes for older youth in the child welfare system


 

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO – LONG STAYERS 

LONG STAYERS PROJECT



- Purpose: Identify factors that contribute to youth remaining in foster care for an extended period of time
 - Youth 11 years or older at removal
 - Experienced multiple placement moves first year
 - Birth mothers with chronic substance abuse and issues with domestic violence
 - Minimal father engagement
 - Multiple hotline referrals prior to removal
 - Minimal amount of case plan activities completed

OUR PATH TO PERMANENCY 

IMPLEMENTATION – RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- Permanency Values Training - Internal
- Integrated Approach - Group Homes/Foster Family Agencies/CWS
- Permanency Roundtables (PRT)


 

PERMANENCY MESSAGE 

LAUREN FREY








WHY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES? 

PERMANENCY IS THE PRIORITY



- Sole purpose of this case consultation is to focus on permanency
- Innovative
- Realistic planning
- Future focused






INITIAL SELECTION 

CRITERIA WAS PLANNED AND DATA DRIVEN



- Round 1: Youth ages 11-15 in out of home care for three years or more and current placement in group home care
- Round 2: Youth ages 6-12 placed in group home care
- Round 3: Youth placed in FFA homes





PERMANENCY STATUS 

DEFINITION OF PERMANENCY STATUS

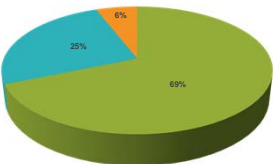
- Poor: No plan, no connections, placement instability
- Marginal: Uncertain/developing plan and connections, temporary placement
- Fair: Implementing plan, committed caregiver identified, somewhat stable placement plan
- Very Good: Plan in place, committed caregiver, placement official and stable
- Achieved: Legal permanency attained (dependency terminated)



INITIAL PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 


DATA AND OUTCOMES

Initial Permanency Roundtables - Rounds 1 and 2
October 2013 - August 2014
(n=51)



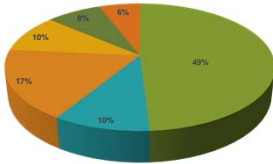
STATUS POOR	35
STATUS MARGINAL	13
STATUS FAIR	3

INITIAL PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES 



DATA AND OUTCOMES

Permanency Roundtables - Rounds 1 and 2
February 2015 - April 2015
(n=51)



STATUS POOR	25
STATUS MARGINALS	5
STATUS FAIR	9
STATUS VERY GOOD	5
STATUS ACHIEVED	4
Other	3

Note: Cases included in "other" include AWOL, cases transferred to probation, and aging out.

INITIAL PERMANENCY
ROUNDTABLES



FAMILY FINDING/ENGAGEMENT



- Of the 39 referrals made for family finding-
 - Fathers were located for 13 youth
 - At least one family member was identified for 29 youth
 - Family members continue to be engaged for 13 youth



YOUTH'S STORY



CHRIS' STORY

- In foster care since 2008
- Placements: 1 relative/NREFM home, 3 Foster Family Agency homes, 5 group homes, and 4 stays at emergency shelter
- Located and engaged father
- First visit to Idaho
- Current status



A YOUTH'S STORY



SAL'S STORY

- Entered into foster care at the age of one
- Placements: 7 licensed foster homes, 5 group homes, and 4 stays at emergency shelter
- Status of parents
- Placed in two prospective adoptive homes and was featured on the "Adopt 8"
- Impact of Family Finding and Family Group Conferencing
- Current status



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?



- Committed, involved leadership
- Social worker/supervisor values
- Importance of dedicated permanency staff
- Identification of systems barriers



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



- Conducting round four
- Facilitating follow-ups
- Expanding to include the County of San Diego's Adoptions program
- Involving Continuous Quality Improvement Unit



OUR MESSAGE



Foster Care begins and ends with family (Lauren Frey)