

SYSTEM NAVIGATION

WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

Dawn Kekstadt, Bureau Director,
Division of Aging and Disability Services

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Overview

Community Integration and
Inclusion



Person-Centered System
Navigation



Considerations for Child
Welfare Involvement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Olmstead Decision

The ADA is a federal civil rights law enacted by Congress in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities, including employment.

The ADA guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as anyone to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services and participate in state and local government programs.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Olmstead Decision

Olmstead v. L.C. and E.W. is a federal lawsuit decided by the US Supreme Court on June 22, 1999.

The decision interpreted part of the ADA and became a landmark civil rights decision for Americans with disabilities.

The ADA and the Olmstead Supreme Court decision are about making changes so all persons with disabilities have opportunities for full community integration and inclusion.

Person-Centered System Navigation

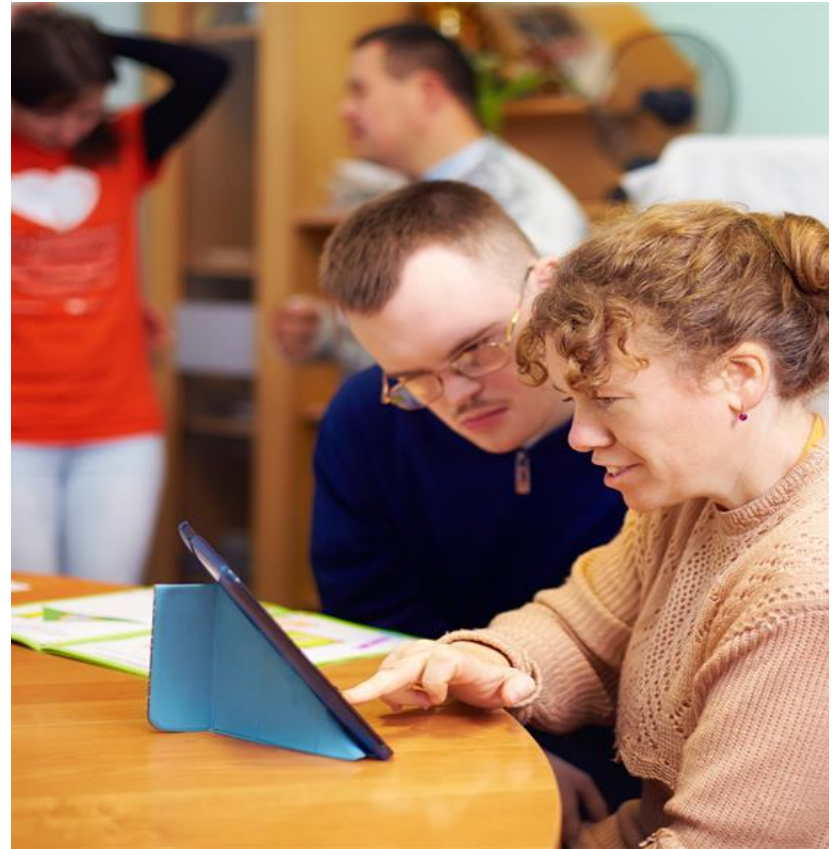


Health and
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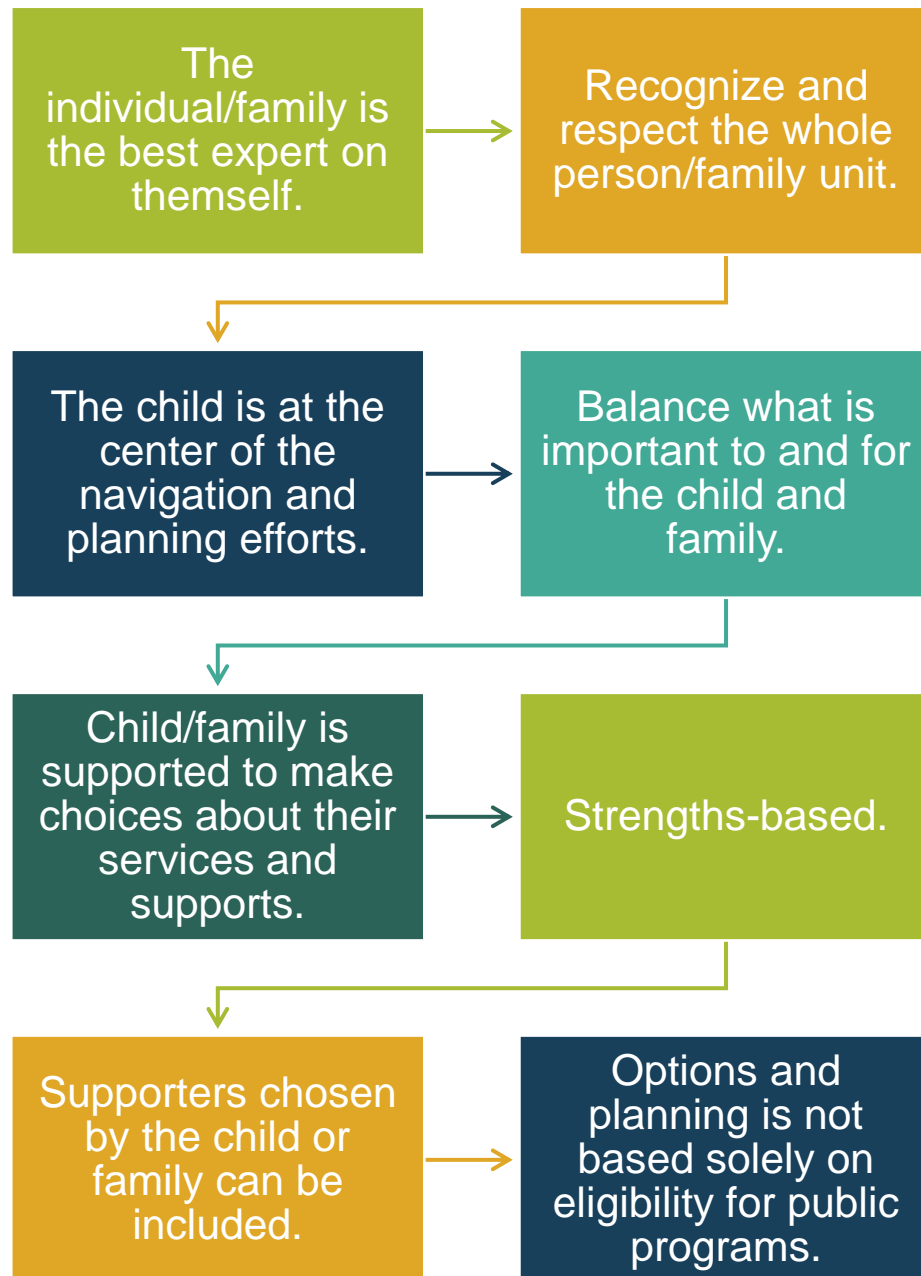
Person-Centered Navigation

Person-centered approach assists the individual and/or family with make informed decisions for themselves.

- ▶ Recognizes people are the best experts on themselves
- ▶ Considers strengths, preferences, and values
- ▶ Includes natural supports



Principles of Person- Centered System Navigation



Skills Needed to Support Person-Centered Navigation

Ability to Prioritize

Active Listening

Empathy

Paraphrasing

Competencies

Culturally Informed, Whole Person-Focused

- Self-aware of personal privilege
- Not impose their values on others
- Learns the child/family's cultural and linguistic preferences

Choice and Control

- Presumes that the person/family has the right to participate in their own process and plan

Partnership and Communication

- Understands and builds relationships with cross-system resources
- Assists with facilitating conversations, including difficult ones

Supporting Children with Complex Needs

Child Protective Services System Involvement



Health and
Human Services

How Do Children with Complex Needs Enter Child Protective Services?



Child Protective Services Assessment: the victim is a child, the person responsible is a caretaker, and the incident falls within Iowa's definition of child abuse.



Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) Assessment: the child is in need of medical treatment to cure, alleviate, or prevent serious injury or illness and whose parent, guardian, or custodian is unable to provide such treatment.

Social Work Case Manger (SWCM)



Family First Prevention Services Act

The Family First Prevention Services Act was signed into law on February 9, 2018, as a part of the Bipartisan Budget Act (HR. 1892). The law restructures how the federal government spends money on child welfare to improve outcomes for children and families.

In Iowa, HF2507 codified many of the Family First requirements and philosophical changes (July 1, 2022).

Intent of Family First

Prevent Removal:

- Provides a funding structure to support evidence-based family preservation services to prevent removal.

Prioritize Family Settings:

- If removal is necessary, placement priority must be given to non-custodial parent, relative of the child, or to kin (a person who has a significant relationship with the child).

Reduce Congregate Care:

- All possible strategies for keeping children with their families, or in family settings, must be explored.

Special Considerations for Children Involved in Child Welfare

History of complex or ongoing trauma

Transitions/Changes in life situations

Relationships

Treatment

Foster Care

Foster Family Care: May be licensed or unlicensed. There is a Therapeutic Foster Care pilot. Statewide contract with Four Oaks for licensed foster family recruitment, retention, training, and service.

Shelter Care: short term and temporary placement intended to meet immediate safety and well-being needs.

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP): provides 24-hour care using a trauma-informed model to address the clinical needs of children with SED or behavioral disorders.

Supervised Apartment Living (SAL): for youth between ages 16 ½ and 20 years of age and provides services and supports aimed at preparing them for self-sufficiency.

Timelines Associated with Foster Care

Entry into foster care initiates required timelines for permanency. Concerted efforts must be made to reunify the child with the parents or primary caregiver. Reunification must occur at the earliest possible time or within 12 months of the child entering foster care.

**Permanency
timelines are
established by
judicial review.**

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Iowa Law requires permanency to be established within 12 months for children four and older.

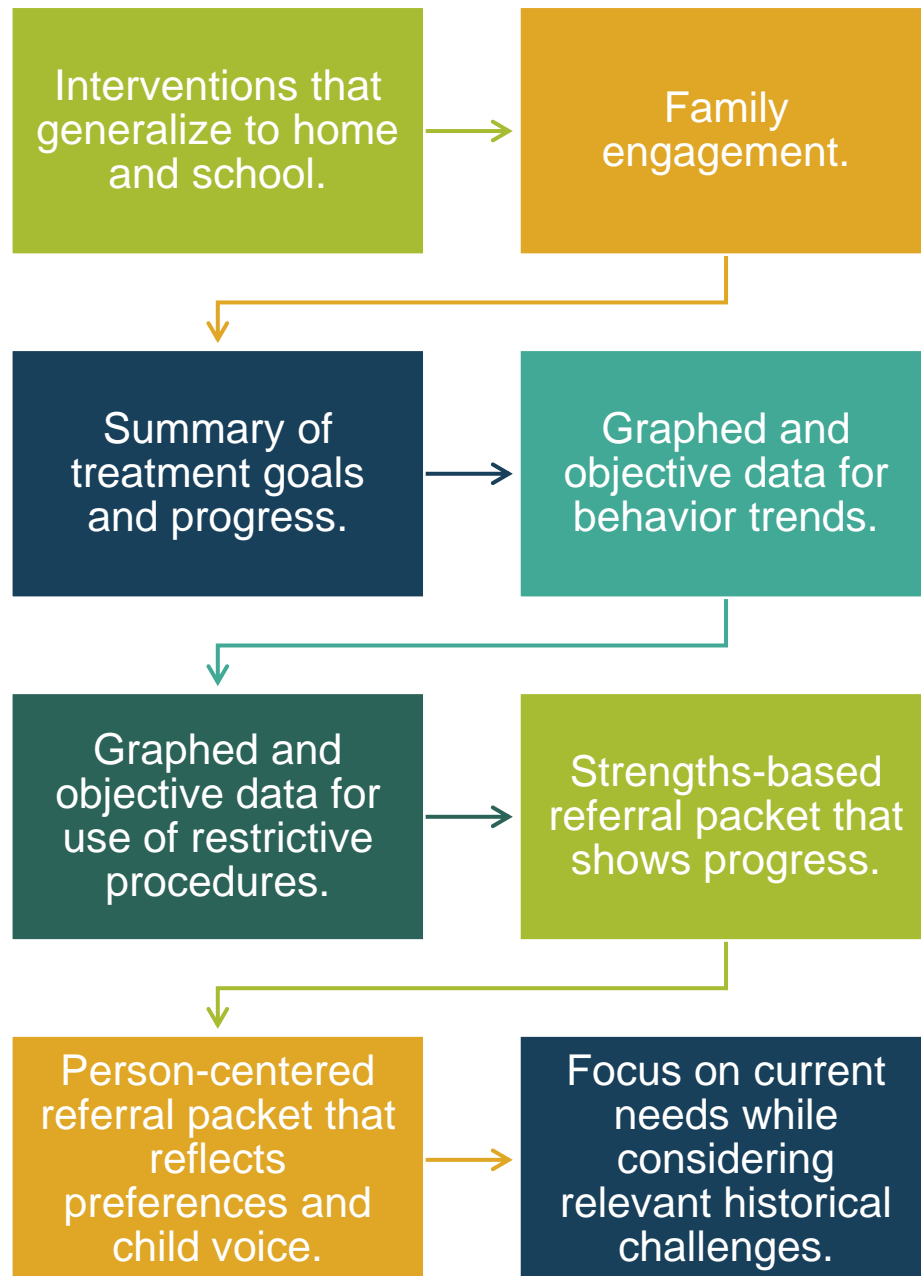
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Federal regulations require the Department to seek termination of parental rights when a child has been in foster care for 15 of 22 months.

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Federal regulations require that concerted efforts be made to achieve the goal of adoption earliest possible or within 24 months.

Transitioning to a family setting



HHS Initiatives



<https://hhs.iowa.gov/about/initiatives/government-relations-resources>

Questions

Dawn Kekstadt

Bureau Director, Community Integration Services

dkeksta@dhs.state.ia.us



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