

Child Protective Services Update

February 3, 2025



Overview

Child Protective Services 101

Safe Kids

Focus on Foster Care

Supporting Safe Kids

Completed Initiatives

The Three Cs

The victim is a
child

The person
alleged
responsible is a
caretaker

The child is
subjected to
one or more of
the 11
**categories of
abuse** defined
in Iowa Code §
232.68

Categories of Abuse

Physical Abuse

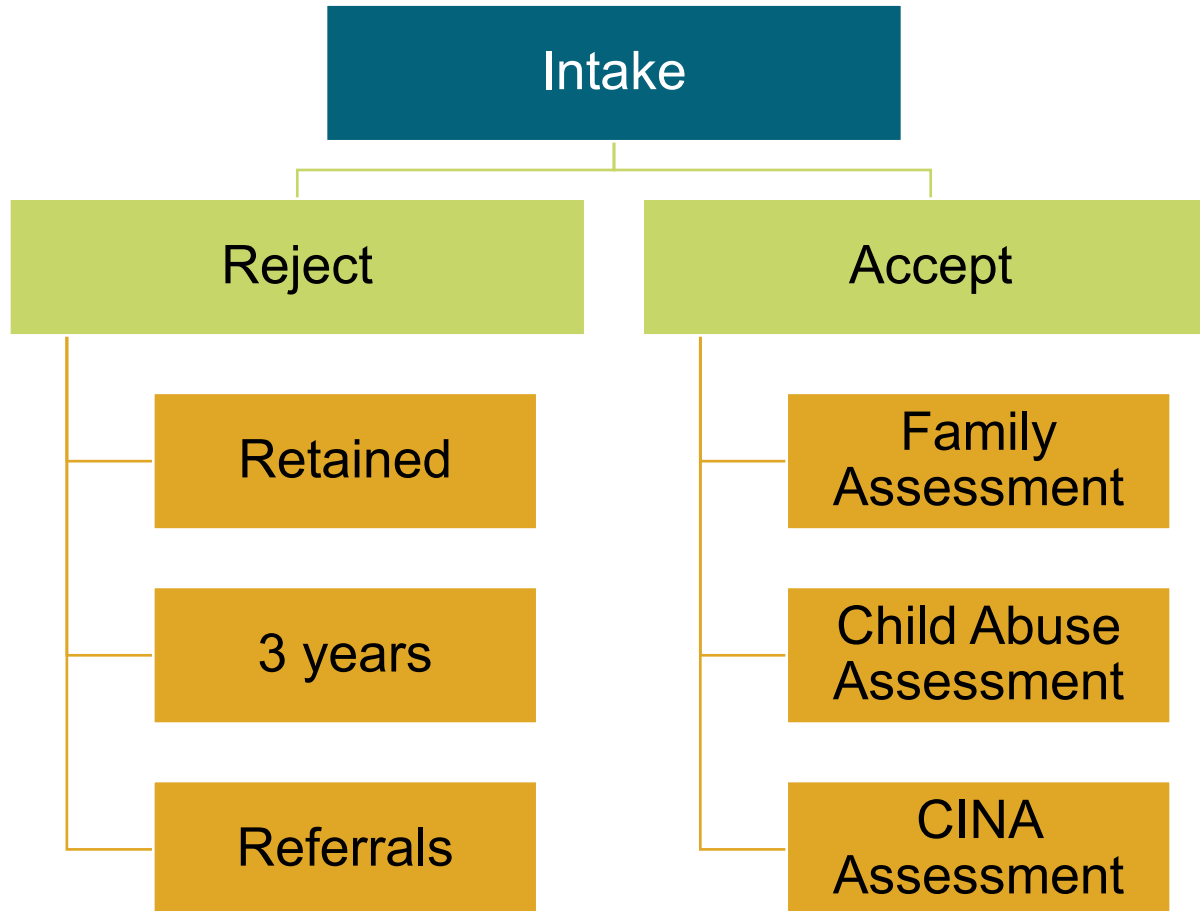
Sexual Abuse

Denial of Critical Care

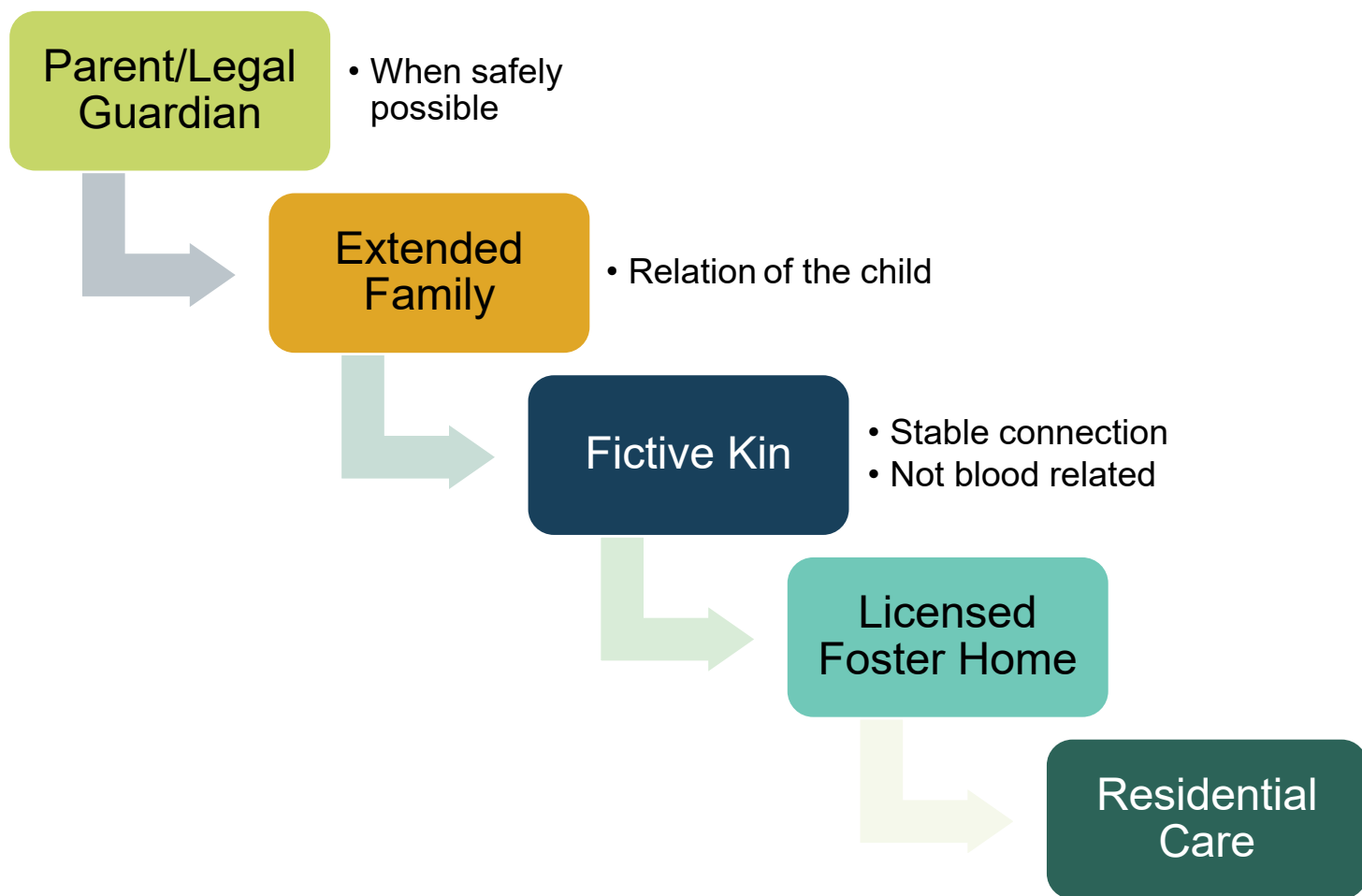
Presence of Illegal Drugs

Dangerous Substance

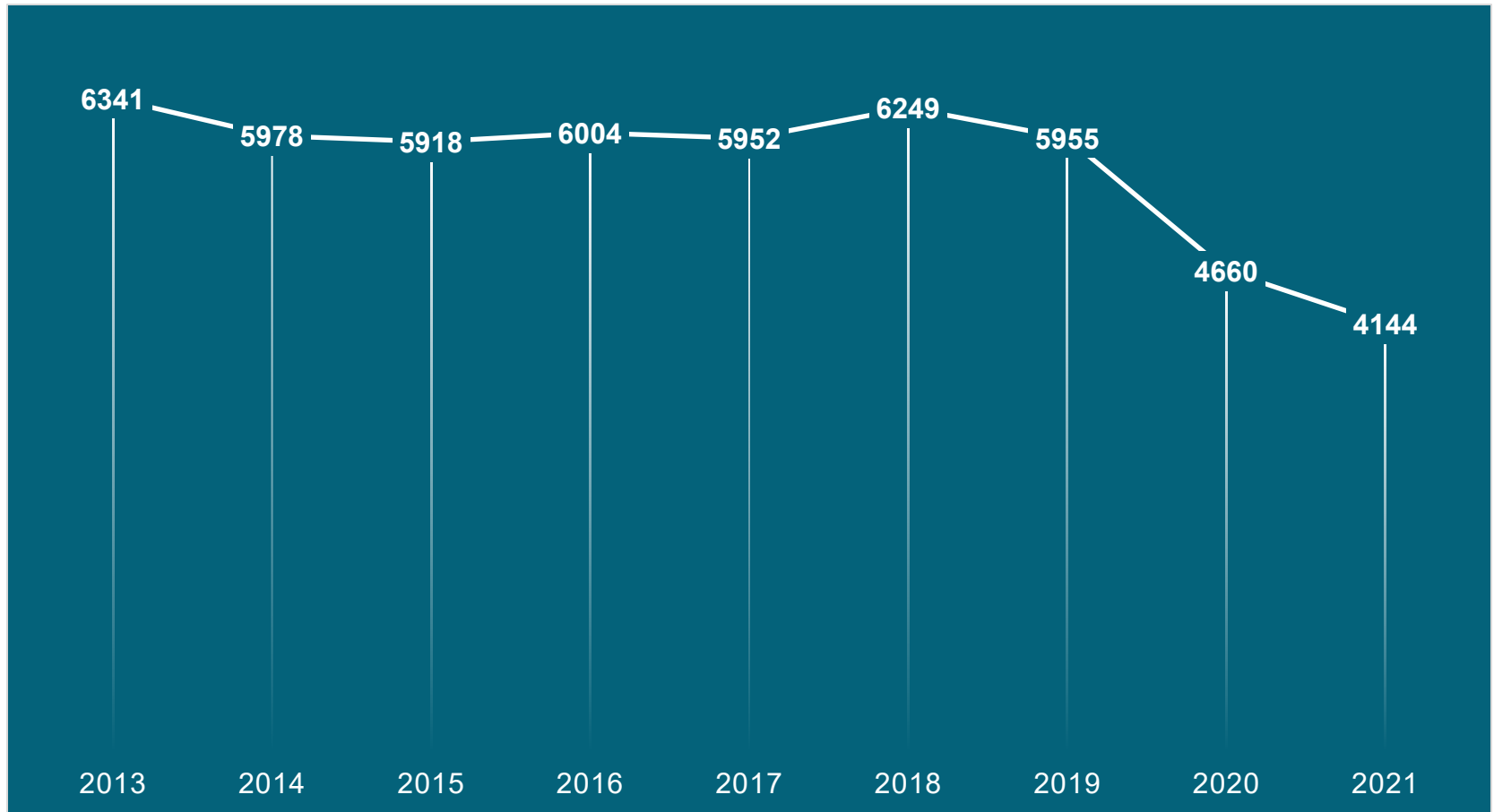
Abuse Hotline 1-800-362-2178



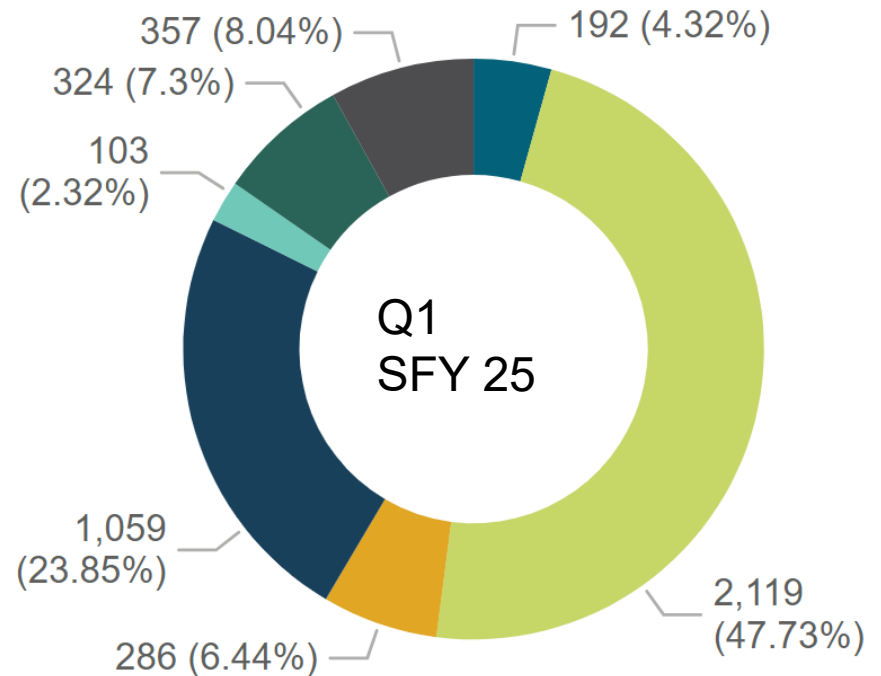
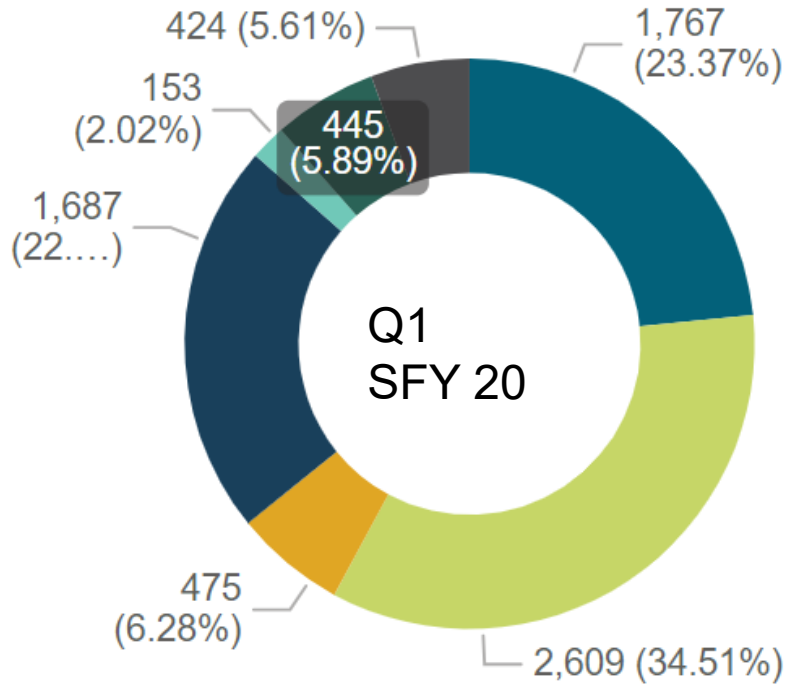
Placement Options



Children in Foster Care



Kinship Placements



- Trial Home Visit
- Relative/Fictive Kin
- Adoption Presubsidy
- Licensed Substitute Caregiver
- Shelter Care
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program
- Other Care

Safe Kids

Transforming Child Protective Services in Iowa

Collecting Feedback Over Time

2022

July

HHS Director Kelly Garcia, Division Director Janee Harvey and Chief Justice Christiansen began court listening sessions.

December

Change and Innovation Agency (CIA) began initial steps of their assessment of Iowa's child welfare system.

2023

February

Director Harvey and Director Frick began listening sessions with CPS staff and leadership.

August

SBT began prioritization and workgroups.

March

Director Harvey began quarterly town halls.

HHS distributed Employee Engagement Survey.

CPS Leadership distributed Service Area Realignment Survey.

2024

March

CPS Leadership distributed Policy and Practice Survey.

CPS Leadership distributed FWBP Who We Are Survey.

Final CIA report was received by HHS.

April

Director Harvey began external town halls.

June

Assistant Attorney General conducted culture assessment.

August

Director Frick, Bureau Chief Konchalski began feedback meetings with CPS Supervisors.

How We Will Improve Outcomes



Safe Kids Advisory Panel

Judge Forker-Parry,
Woodbury County

Andrea Vitzthum, Polk County
Attorney's Office

Kevin Brownell, Polk County
Attorney's Office

Josh Sienkiewicz, Law
Enforcement

Veronica Russell, HHS

Kelly Erickson, Parent

Shane Morgan, Parent

Alexis McQuown, Foster
Parent

Eric Grundfast, Foster Parent

Kayla Powell, Youth Advocate

Zoie Points, Youth

Monica Malek, Youth

Recruitment and Retention Payments

Retention Payments

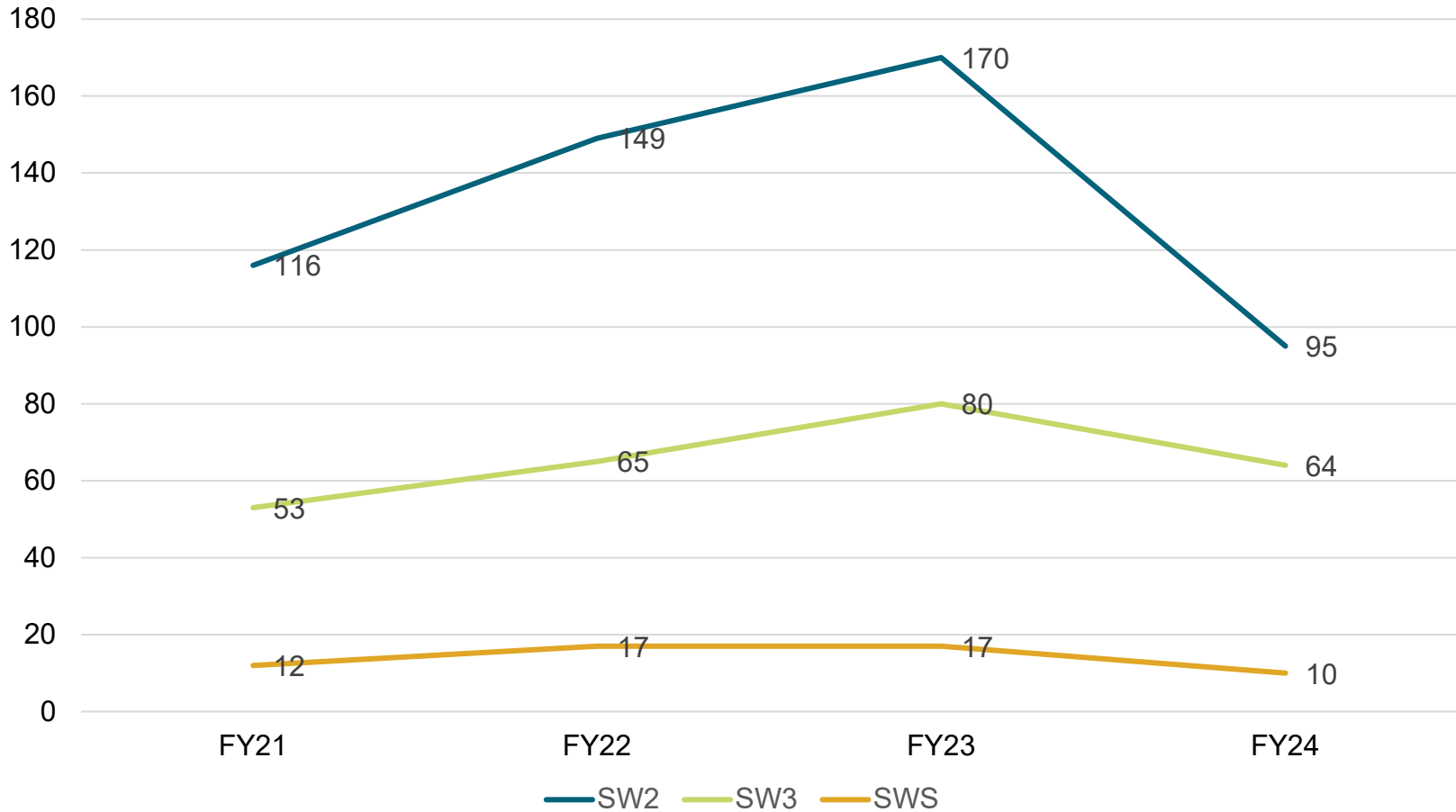
- ▶ Two payments of \$2,500
- ▶ Required to work in role for 12 months

Recruitment Payments

- ▶ Recruit qualified staff
- ▶ One payment of \$2,500
- ▶ Required to work in role for 12 months

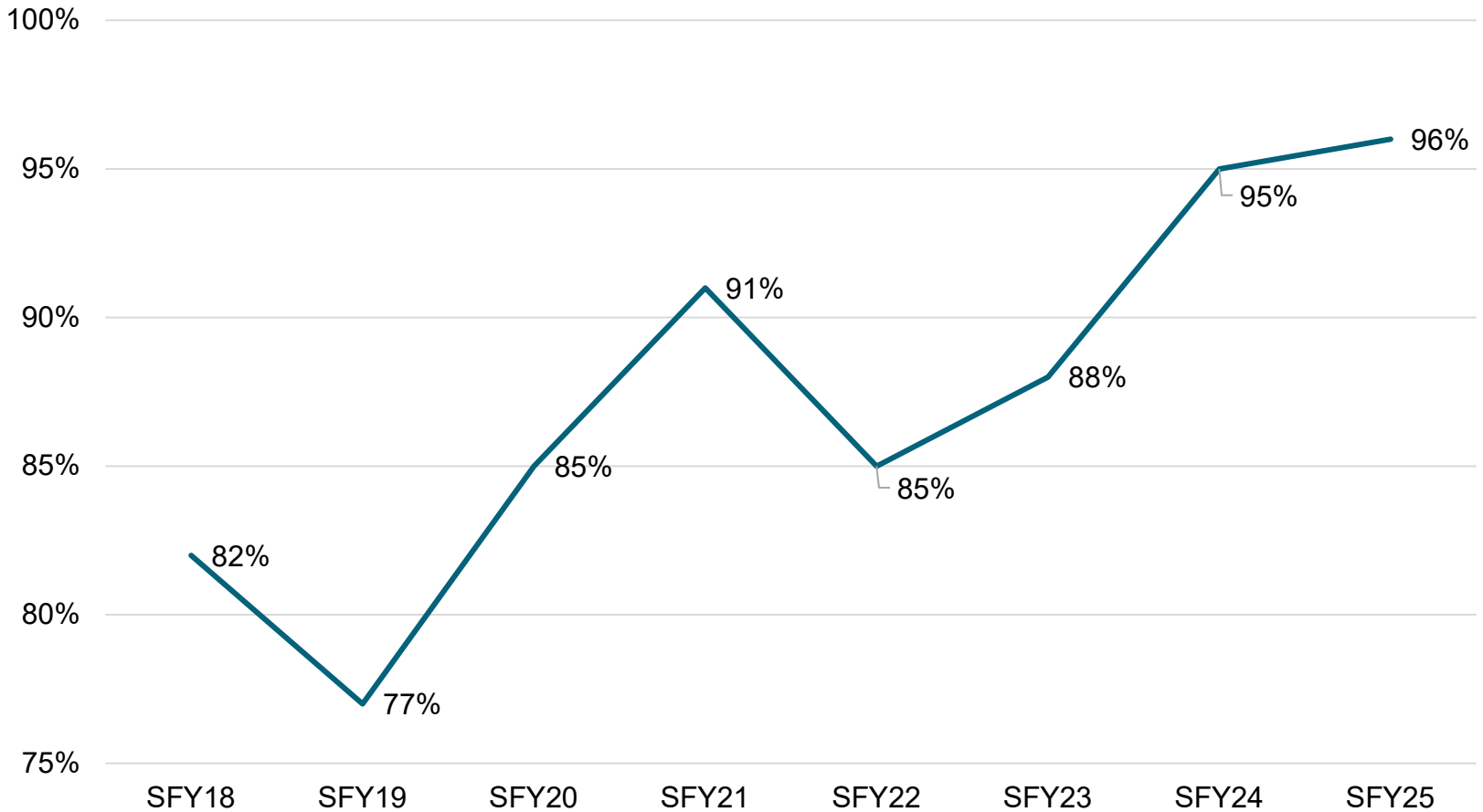
Workforce Retention

Vacancies Over Time



Monthly Visits Made with HHS Involved Children

Averages by State Fiscal Year



Therapeutic Foster Homes

- ▶ Four Licensed TFC homes – six youth placed in the homes
- ▶ Five Respite TFC homes
- ▶ Five youth on a waiting list
- ▶ Two discharges – 1 successful to a relative and 1 to a higher level of care
- ▶ Actively recruiting in the Cedar Rapids service area
- ▶ We currently have 13 youth 12-years-old or younger in shelter waiting for placement.



Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)

Reduce worker
documentation

Increase time with
families

Support family finding
efforts



Foster Parent Town Halls

- ▶ Foster parent town halls every other month
- ▶ Engage with and support foster parents
- ▶ Therapeutic foster parent recruitment



Supporting Safe Kids

Develop Expedited and Separate Licensing Standards for Relative and Fictive Kin

- Children do better when they are with **their** families
- Allow the child(ren) to maintain:
 - A sense of place and belonging
 - Their cultural identity
 - Connection to their own community
- Current foster care licensure standards are the same for general foster homes and kin/fictive kin placements
 - Delays in permanency
 - Placement disruptions
 - Increased financial burdens on kin/fictive kin families
- Streamlined approval process
 - More timely financial assistance for kin/fictive kin placements
 - Provide supportive services for the placement family and child(ren)

Safety and Security Enhanced Funding to QRTP

Promote safety and security for QRTPs

One-time, \$1,000,000 investment

Consulted with each location to understand the need

Examples of funding uses:

- Doors with delayed locks
- Motion activated security cameras
- Privacy fences
- Updated windows

Update on Completed Initiatives

Thank you for your support on last year's initiatives

\$334,500
Increase in
PALS stipend
to match the
SAL payment

5% (\$308,765)
increase in
foster parent
payments

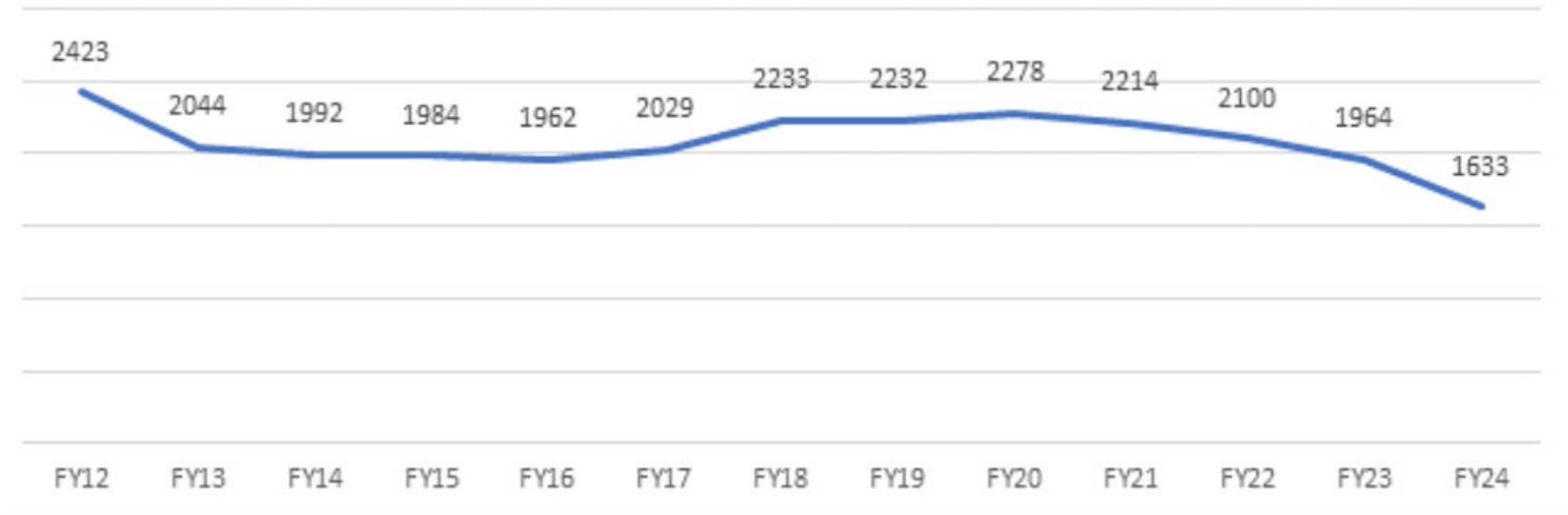
- Average
payment
increase

\$1,000,000 to
add one
trainer to each
service area

Foster Care and Adoption Basic Daily Rate Increase

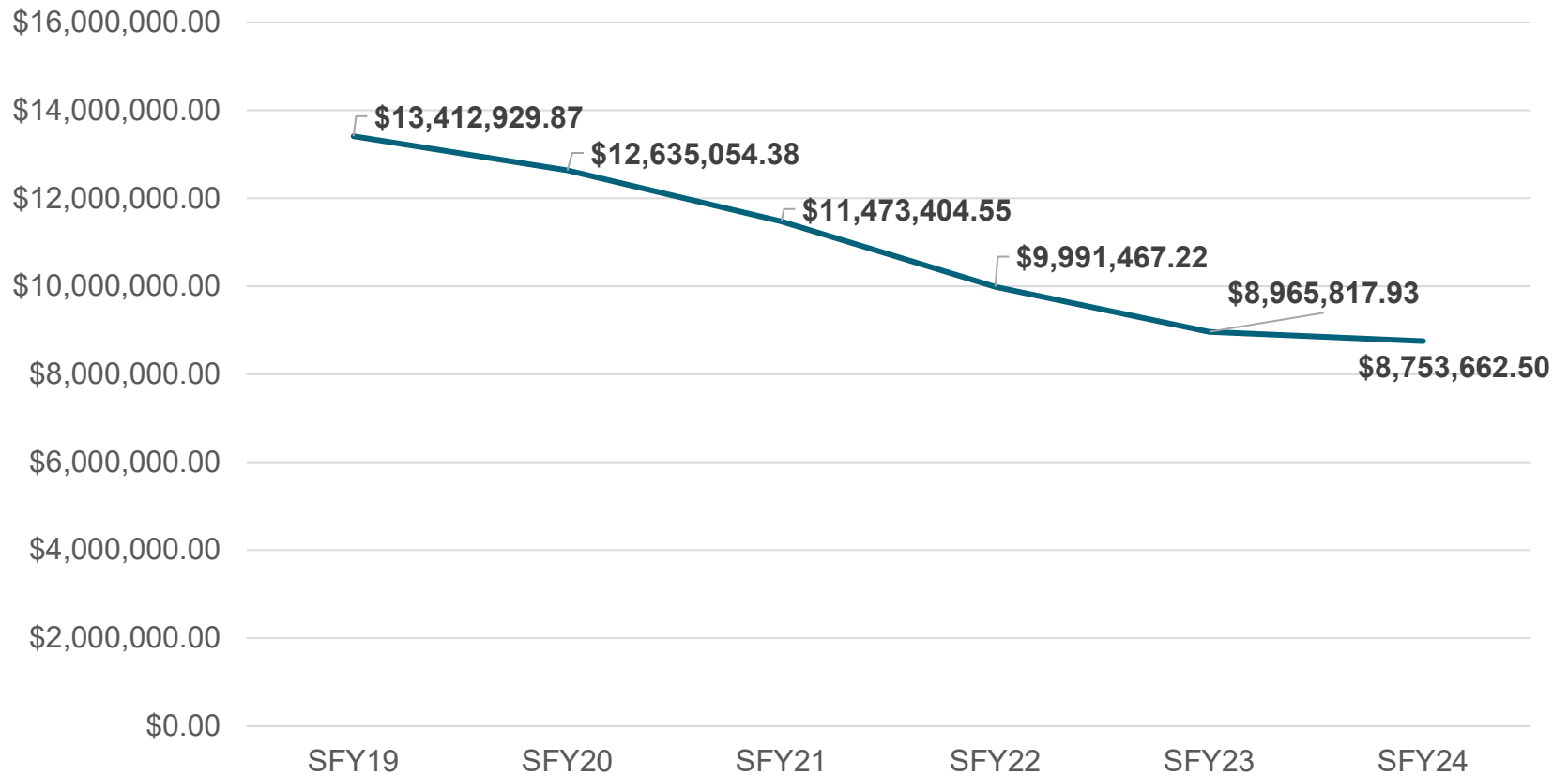
Age of Child	SFY24 Basic Daily Rate	SFY25 Basic Daily Rate	Total Daily Increase
0-5	\$16.78	\$17.62	\$0.84
6-11	\$17.45	\$18.32	\$0.87
12-15	\$19.10	\$20.06	\$0.96
16-20	\$19.35	\$20.32	\$0.97

Statewide Foster Family Totals From FY12-24*



*Data was pulled each year on December 31.

IV-E Funding Received



Questions

Nick Crawford

Legislative Liaison

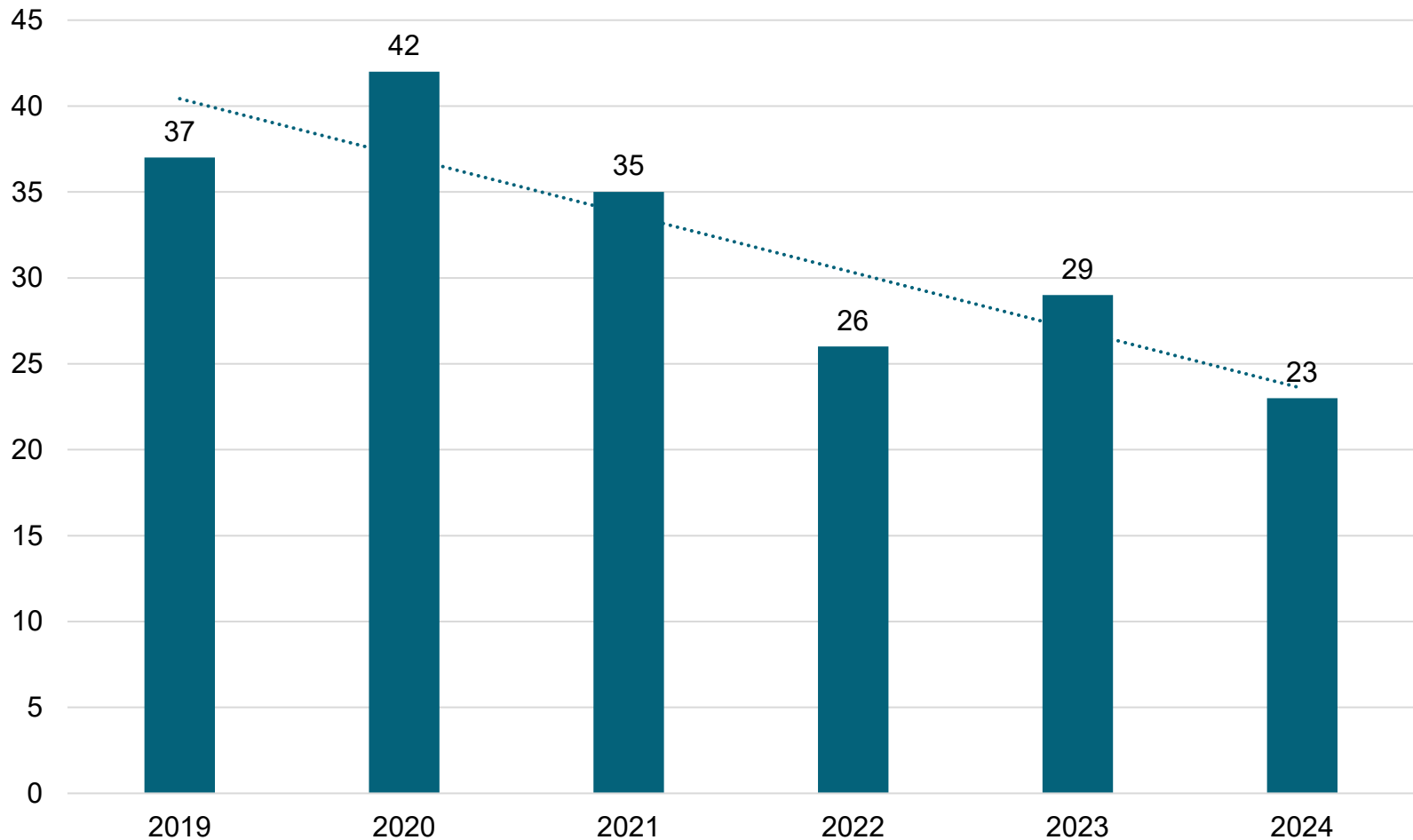
Nicholas.Crawford@hhs.iowa.gov



Health and
Human Services

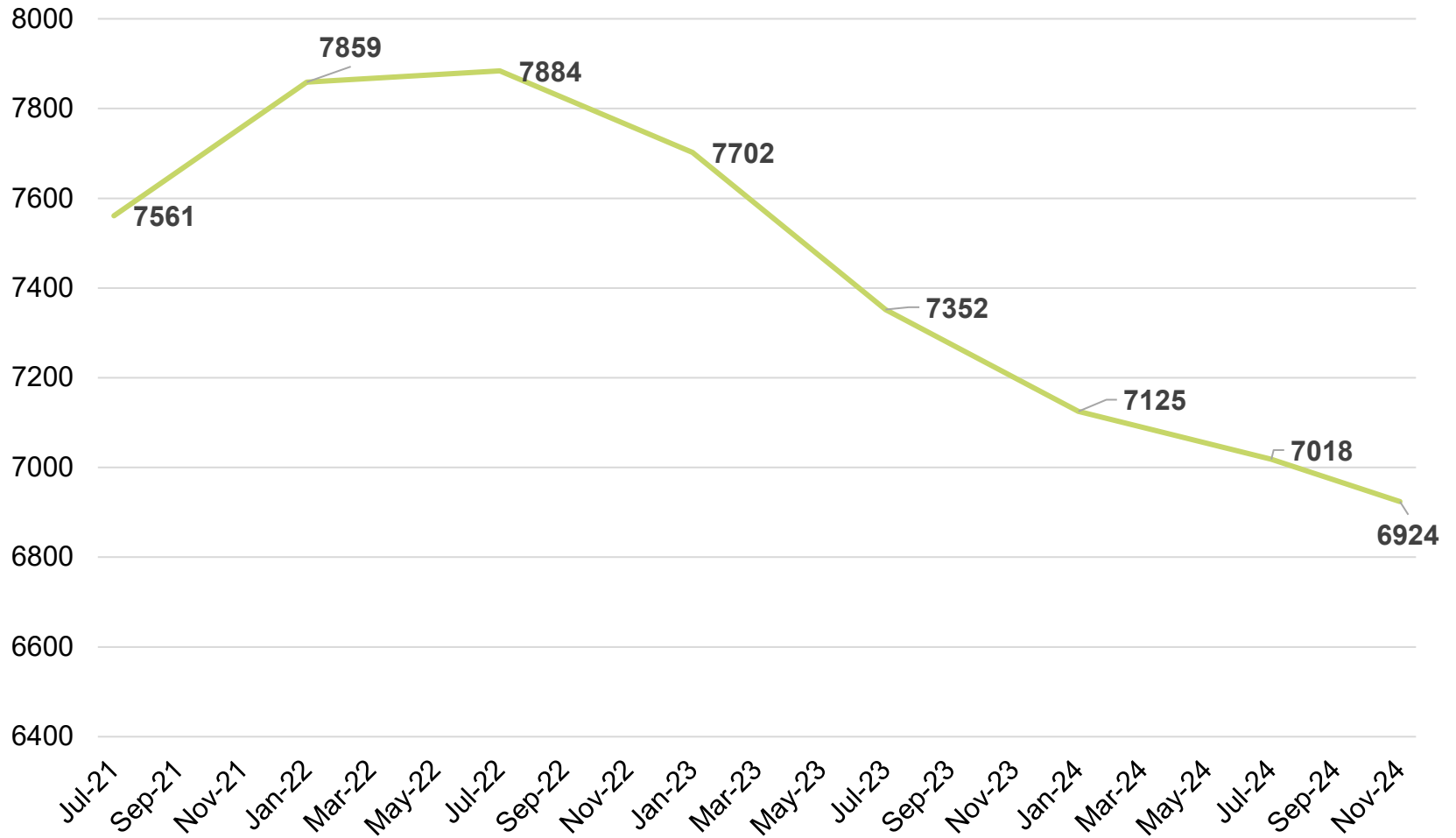
Appendix

Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) Assessment due to Behavioral Health Needs



Data was pulled by calendar year.

Statewide Caseload Data



Second Finding of Abuse

Initial Finding of Abuse

	Denial of Critical Care	Dangerous Substances	Presence of Illegal Drugs
Denial of Critical Care	32.1%	12.3%	3.3%
Dangerous Substances	8.4%	13%	2.3%
Presence of Illegal Drugs	4.9%	2.9%	1%

Sobriety, Treatment and Recovery Teams (START)

An evidence-based approach to child welfare delivery

Improves outcomes for both children and families when implemented with fidelity

- ▶ Serves families involved in child welfare with at least one child, age 5 or younger, and at least one parent diagnosed with a SUD
- ▶ Utilizes a team approach, with one HHS Social Worker and one Family Mentor working together
- ▶ Will be piloted in 2 sites in Iowa
- ▶ Training and Technical Assistance will be provided by Child and Family Futures

