

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUMMARY

Child Protective Services / Safety

Goal: Children are safely maintained in their own homes, families and communities with connections, culture and relationships preserved.

Outcome measure: Decrease the percentage of children who experience recurrence of child abuse or maltreatment, measured by two indicated Child Protective Services reports within a 12-month period.

Indicator: Dutchess County recurrence rate is 17.9% (wave 3 children with at least 1 indicated report in 2014 with another indicated report within 12 months of initial report)

Strategies:

1. Consolidate Reports regularly and timely, and enter Incident Dates on all Indicated Reports
2. Refer families immediately to Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVL's) or Substance Abuse Professionals when either issue is identified or suspected
3. Use Family Team Meetings at specific times during service provision

Foster Care Services / Permanency

Goal: When it is necessary to place children in out-of-home care, it is a safe, short and stable experience concluding with permanent attachments to caring adults.

Outcome measure: Increase the percentage of children who achieve permanency, measured by the number of children in foster care for 12-23 months who are discharged to permanent homes within the next 12-month period.

Indicator: Dutchess County permanency indicator rate is 39.7% (wave 3)

Strategies:

1. File Permanent Neglect Petitions at the one-year mark
2. Assign an Adoption Case Manager on all cases at the time a Permanent Neglect Petition is filed
3. Use Family Team Meetings at specific times during service provision

Youth and Young Adults

Goal: As youth transition to adulthood, they benefit from services that promote healthy development, academic success and/or self-sustainability and safe living conditions.

Outcome measures: Increase the percentage of youth exiting residential placement who have the skills and supports necessary for self-sustainability, as measured by having permanent housing and employment skills.

Indicators: 13% of youth aged 18-24 have public health insurance; 35% of households headed by a person under 25-year-old are living in poverty; while the graduation rate is 84.6% in Dutchess County, it is 47% for youth aged 18-21 who are exiting foster care in 2017.

Strategies:

1. Youth who exit residential placement to independence will have sustainable housing
2. Youth exiting residential placement to independence will have the skills necessary for self sufficiency

PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision)

The Department of Probation and Community Corrections will utilize Diversion Service options and procedures to increase the percentage of youth who successfully resolve PINs complaints. The outcomes will be:

1. Increased percentage of PINs complaints that do not result in a petition to Family Court (currently 79%)
 2. Maintenance of high percentage of youth who are diverted from placement (currently 95%)
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DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES
2018-2023 CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PLAN
SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC FORUM 8-28-2018

FAMILY SERVICES SUMMARY

Child Care Services

Eligible Families: Income up to 200% of the State Income Standard, and

- Are on Public Assistance and participating in an approved activity, or
- Families with an open child protective case when child care is needed to protect the child, or
- Child's caretaker is on public assistance and earning wages at level equal to or greater than the minimum amount under the law OR is receiving education instructional or vocational program approved by the DCFS employment worker

Recertification Period: 12 months.

Family Share: The weekly amount paid towards the cost of child care services by the child's parents or care taker is established at up to 30% of the child care cost for those who are not receiving temporary assistance (T.A.). Those families who have an open TA case, do not have a family share to pay.

District Options:

Dutchess County has elected to make payments for absences in case of illness or temporary crisis, up to a maximum of 15 days per month, or 20 days in a three (3) month period.

Dutchess County has elected to make payment for child care while a caretaker who works second and third shift sleeps.

DCFS is engaged in the Babies Step Forward program with the Child Care Council of Dutchess & Putnam

Non- Residential Domestic Violence Services

Intended to be a separate and distinct program from DV shelters.

Service Providers:

Following a request for proposal, Dutchess County Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) contracted with three agencies for these specialized services: Grace Smith House, Family Services, and House of Faith.

Core Services include:

- Telephone hotline assistance, information & referral
- Advocacy
- Counseling
- Community education & outreach

Optional Services include:

- Domestic Abuse Response Team (managed by the County District Attorney's Office)
- Lethality Assessment Program and High Risk Domestic Violence Case Management
- Family Advocate/Latina Outreach Services
- Children's Services Liaison Services
- Family Court Advocacy
- Youth Education Prevention Services
- Legal Representation Services

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ADULT SERVICES SUMMARY

Goal 1: Vulnerable/dependent adults are protected from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation while respecting their rights to self-determination and, through the least restrictive means possible, are able to remain safely in the community, to the extent possible.

Outcome measures: Improved investigation, assessment and service delivery through multi-disciplinary teams and community resources to reduce risk and protect vulnerable adults.

Strategies:

1. Participate and boost existing Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team (E-MDT) which was formed in mid 2017 to address cases of elder abuse, including financial exploitation
2. Conduct public information sessions about adult abuse to enable the general public and targeted groups to recognize abuse and report it

Goal 2: Vulnerable/dependent adults who require residential placement will receive quality care which respects their wishes in compliance with the law.

Outcome measure: Improved housing placements for vulnerable adults faced with environmental risks, particularly homelessness, untreated mental health conditions, and/or being discharged from hospital or other health care facility with immediate need for housing or support services.

Strategies:

1. Screen adults who apply for Temporary Housing Assistance at DCFS for Adult Protective Services
2. Conduct monthly internal case consultation meetings
3. Attend monthly Mobile Crisis Team meetings to establish collaborative plan of action for persons with mental impairments who need to be more engaged in services
4. Consider use of stabilization center as a point of entry for vulnerable persons being discharged from a hospital or institution with immediate need for housing or benefits. By year 5, fully implement a referral process to APS and Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) that provides support to the vulnerable adults, with projected outcomes of enhanced safety in the community and prevention of re-hospitalization.