## Maine Department of Health and Human Services

## Office of Child and Family Services

February 2019



#### **Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS)**

#### Our Vision:

## All Maine children will grow up to be **productive community members**.

Ensure the **safety**, **permanency** and **well-being** of all Maine children.

#### We believe:

- → Child safety is **first and foremost**
- $\rightarrow$  Parents have the **right and responsibility** to raise their children
- → Children deserve to live in a **safe and nurturing** family
- → All children deserve a **permanent** family
- $\rightarrow$  How we do our work is **as important** as the work we do

#### OCFS: SFY '18 Expenditures by Appropriation



#### **OCFS Staffing: Major Programs**



*Note: Position numbers include, Legislative headcount, Limited Period and Seasonal/Intermittent positions.* 

#### **OCFS Primary Programs/ Services**

 OCFS oversees the behavioral health treatment and services system of care for children from birth up to their 21st birthday, including partnership with MaineCare services, policy development, and Children's contract management. **Behavioral** Health OCFS receives reports of child abuse and neglect and responds to those reports in order to provide safety, well-being, and permanency for Maine children. Child Welfare OCFS works with families to prevent and reduce the risk and effect of adverse childhood experiences such as neglect, trauma, or exposure Early to violence. Intervention Prevention

In SFY 2018, in partnership with MaineCare, OCFS annually managed and oversaw more than \$179 million in behavioral health services to approximately 33,000 children across the state. OCFS strategically prioritizes the use of evidence based practices that allow children to remain their own community whenever possible.

Of those services provided in SFY18, more than 66% or \$119 million was spent to provide services to children in their home and community.



#### **OCFS Programs and Services – Child Welfare**

Each year, OCFS receives approximately 50,000 calls at the Child Abuse Hotline. Every call is triaged and assessed for appropriate action– resulting in over 26,000 referrals for Child Protective Services and over 11,000 safety assessments.



There was a **27%** increase in the number of calls received in 2018 compared to 2017, and a **25%** increase in the number cases assigned for assessment.

Call 1-800-452-1999 immediately if you suspect child abuse or neglect.

#### **OCFS Programs and Services – Child Welfare**



There are many factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect, but **mental health**, **substance abuse**, and **family violence** remain the most common factors over the past 10 years.

#### **During Calendar Year 2018**

- → 19% of Assessments completed found parental mental health as a risk factor
- → 20% of Assessments completed found parental substance abuse as a risk factor.
- → 15% of Assessments completed found family violence as a risk factor.

In Calendar Year 2018, 52% of the children coming into the State's protective custody had parental substance abuse as a risk factor.

## OCFS Programs and Services – Early Intervention and Prevention

OCFS supports and oversees a variety of prevention and early intervention programs in order **to assist families before there is a problem**. Over the last 10 years, the child welfare field has recognized the importance of supporting families from a **PREVENTATIVE** standpoint.



#### **OCFS Programs and Services – Early Intervention**

Child Care is a **core component** of Maine's early intervention system. The Department recognizes child care is critical service in order to promote child development and safety. In partnership with the Office of Family Independence (OFI) and the Division of Licensing and Certification (DLC), OCFS provides the policy oversight of child care services in Maine.

| CCSP<br>FFY2018<br>• 6,087 Children Served<br>• 3,736 Families Served<br>• \$444.12/Child<br>• \$717.44/Family<br>• 758 Licensed Providers<br>• 379 Unlicensed<br>Providers<br>• 1137 Total Providers | Over the last 10 years, there were<br>significant declines in family home<br>providers (-29%) and nursery<br>schools (-55%), partially offset by<br>growth in the number of child care<br>facilities (+11%). |
|---|--|
|---|--|

## OCFS Programs and Services – Violence Prevention

OCFS is the lead agency for the coordination of all federal and state funded domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programs and planning efforts in Maine. In partnership with several community agencies, OCFS provides supports to thousands of families and children who are in need of protection, advocacy, education, legal assistance, and training. These services are supported by over \$15.6 million annually, including violence prevention federal grants, as well as other federal grant programs and state general funds.

#### **Programs Include:**

- Statewide Crisis Hotline
- Human Trafficking Safe House
- 6 Sexual Assault Centers
- 8 Domestic Violence Centers
- 7 Child Advocacy Centers
- School and community-based prevention education
- Tribal sexual assault and domestic violence centers
- Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network, including a safe house for victims of sex trafficking
- Child Protective Domestic Violence Liaisons
- Shelter services and transitional housing for victims
- Victim Witness Advocates within each Prosecutorial District
- Civil legal services for victims



#### **Priorities – Structured Decision Making**

Evidence-based tool used within Child Welfare Services to create **high-quality, consistent** statewide practice when determining **safety decisions** about child abuse and neglect and the assignment of <u>appropriate services</u> <u>and supports.</u>



#### **Statewide Services and Supports**



#### **8 District Offices**

District 1 - York County District 2 – Cumberland, Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties **District 3** - Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties District 4 – Knox and Waldo Counties **District 5** - Somerset and **Kennebec Counties District 6** - Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties **District 7** - Washington and Hancock Counties **District 8** - Aroostook County



#### **Office of Child and Family Services**

#### If I suspect child abuse or neglect what should I do?

# File a report **immediately** by calling Intake at **1-800-452-1999.**



Department of Health and Human Services