



Region 4 Observations and Recommendations

What is working

- Chris Freeburne and Lance McCleve: Best listeners ever!
- Open and collaborative communication channels

Trends

- High numbers of safety referrals prior to removal (One case had 44 safety referrals prior to removal)
- Substance abuse is part of almost every case reviewed

Statutory Limitations

- Reuniting foster kids with bio-family is often at odds with ongoing criminal proceedings. ASCO requested legislative clarification of this conflict
- Clarification of existing law regarding the CRP's right to request documents

IDHW Culture

- Change the “defend-the-status-quo mentality” — (Chris Freeburne and Lance McCleve)
- Follow the laws, be accountable to the law – top to bottom
- Foster care DOES NOT WORK without plentiful and good foster families
 - Treat foster families as valued partners in nurturing foster children, not child warehousing facilities
 - Good foster families care and caring foster families have concerns
 - More money does not constitute a solution in and of itself.
 - Stop the loss of good foster families. We can't out-recruit negative PR of foster families
- Trauma-informed care

Foster Family Retention

- Ask them...anonymously! There is no available current data about why foster families are quitting. Hold exit-interviews and ongoing satisfaction surveys. Fear and intimidation continue to be a problem.
- Collaborate with foster families. They are THE subject-matter expert on the kids.

Ideas for Judges

- Growing trend of guardianship over permanency and adoption
- Insist on timeliness of case progression. Time delays traumatize kids
- Listen carefully to and expect foster parent and GAL input in cases