

Division for Children, Youth and Families Practice Model



Our mission: to partner with families and communities to provide resources and supports that lead to the safety and healthy development of children, youth, and the communities in which they live.

Everyone deserves to be safe.

At the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), safety is paramount. We recognize that true safety extends beyond the physical sense and must also include emotional safety. The culture of safety extends beyond the children, youth and families we serve to include victims, communities, and employees.

Prevention reduces child abuse, neglect, and delinquency and promotes safety.

DCYF develops, supports and engages in diverse prevention activities in partnership with families and communities to build protective factors.

All children and youth need and deserve permanency.

DCYF partners with families and communities to promote safe, stable, and permanent or lasting connections for every child or youth in the timeliest way possible. An unconditional relationship with a nurturing caregiver is important to establish the foundation for a child's healthy development.

All children and youth belong with family.

DCYF engages with families and communities to safely keep children and youth in their homes. We recognize that family extends beyond birth relatives and we support those relationships. We promote and facilitate family contact and communication when children and youth are living outside of their homes.

All children, youth and families have strengths.

DCYF recognizes that families and individuals can make positive changes in their lives. We help families identify and build upon their strengths. We utilize a team approach with children, youth, families and community partners to help families provide for their own safety, permanency and wellbeing.

Everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect.

DCYF recognizes that families are knowledgeable about their own lives and supports them within the context of their own family rules, traditions, values and culture when safe. We engage and work collaboratively with colleagues, children, youth, families, and communities with honesty and professionalism. Confidentiality and professional boundaries are always maintained, and staff represent the division in a respectful and professional manner.

Everyone needs and deserves a life of wellbeing.

DCYF believes that well-being includes a healthy mind, body and spirit, as well as life experiences that foster a sense of hopefulness for the future. In addition to offering an array of services that promote opportunities for families to meet their basic needs, DCYF helps to facilitate connections to family, communities and culture.

