

Reducing Harm, Protecting Children and Strengthening Families: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for NYC

Presented by Jess Dannhauser

Agenda

1. Recent Trends
2. Important Current Policy and Legal Issues
3. Opportunities and Challenges Moving Forward
4. Discussion: Crafting a Shared Vision Ahead

Trends in Policy and Practice:

Instituting new Approaches in Child Protection (60% of first time CPS cases are of children 0-5)

- **Partnering with Families**
 - Rights/Information at the Front Door
 - Family Preservation Program
 - Training on Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders
- **Implementing Safety Culture: From Fear to Support and Accountability**
 - ChildStat: Improving Skills of Child Protective Specialist Teams
 - Workforce Institute
 - Leadership Institute and Coaching
 - Workload Investments

Trends in Policy and Practice:

Working to Ease Access to Help and Prevent Unnecessary CPS Involvement

- Re-Training Schools, Shelters, Hospitals on Mandated Reporting
- Establishing Preventive Support Line: 212-676-7667
- Launching School Based Early Support Programs
- Issuing Updated Hospital Testing and Reporting Policy
- Growing Neighborhood-Based Family Enrichment Centers: 3 to 30
- Expanding Access to Child Care: 7K to 70+K Low Income Vouchers
- Launching Strong Foundations NYC: Health Department and ACS Partnership
 - Investments in NFPx and the Perinatal Early Childhood Mental Health Clinic Network

Trends in Policy and Practice:

Implementing New Approaches to Reduce Trauma, Promote Family and Offer Opportunity for Young People

- **Providing Intensive Support for Families**
 - Families with Children with Intellectual and Developmental Challenges
 - Teen Priority Initiative
- **Implementing New Approaches in Foster Care**
 - Launching 0-4 Initiative
 - Focusing on Early Child-Parent Contact and Visits
 - Budgeting for Performance: Enhancing Permanency and Placement
 - Investing in Youth:
 - Fair Futures
 - College Choice and Career Choice
 - Anthos

Data Trends in NYC

Metric	Period	Change	
SCR Reports	2017–2024	↓ 16%	~51K → 42K
Newborn Toxicology Reports	2017–2024	↓ 90%	~600 → 65
Indicated Reports	2017–2024	↓ 46%	~19K → 10K
Court Ordered Supervision	2017–2024	↓ 63%	~5.2K → 1.9K
Pre-Placement	Jan 2025–Jan 2026	↓ 40%	73 → 44
Preventive Community Referrals	2023–2025	↑ 50+%	12% → 25%
Youth in College	2022–2025	↑ 100+%	~200 → 425
Racial Disparities in SCR	2025	8:1 5:1	Black to White Hispanic to White

Trends in Legislation and Legal Matters

- **Anti-Harassment in Reporting Act** (S550A/A66A): Passed in 2025
- **Family Miranda Rights Act** (S901A/Brisport / A1980A/Walker)
- **Important Legal Matters**
 - Gould
 - Sapphire W
 - Elisa
- **Pre-Filing Representation**

The Road Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

Promoting Safety, Healthy Child Development, and Family Well-Being: A Shared Responsibility

- **Family Well-Being/Primary Prevention**
 - NYC Office of Family Well Being Concept
 - Poverty Alleviation Efforts
 - Addressing Racial Inequities
- **Safety and Well-Being of Newborns**
 - Plans of Safe Care
- **Healthy and Connected Teens in Community**
 - Mental Health
 - Developmental and Intellectual Needs
 - School Attendance and Achievement
- **A More Focused and Effective Child Welfare System**

Discussion