

**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action



Expanding Child Welfare Prevention Services in Ohio through the Family First Prevention Services Act

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Learning Objectives

- ◎ Supervisors and managers will understand the basics of Ohio's Title IV-E prevention plan and next steps for implementation.
- ◎ Supervisors and managers will engage in conversations about opportunities within current practice and strategies to support successful implementation in their counties.



Workshop Agenda

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- Introduction to the Family First Prevention Services Act
- Alignment with Ohio's vision for child welfare including building on ProtectOHIO and the Governor's initiatives
- Ohio's Title IV-E prevention plan: The process and status
- Ohio's Roadmap: Moving from the what to the how
- Implementation: Opportunities and Challenges



Poll Questions

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- How have you been involved in planning for Ohio to implement Family First?
 - Participated in workgroups
 - Attended presentations about Family First
 - Read information about Ohio's process on the website
 - Learned about it from our leadership
 - Other (please share in the chat!)
 - I haven't been involved at all



Word Cloud

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- When you hear “Family First”, what is one word that comes to mind?



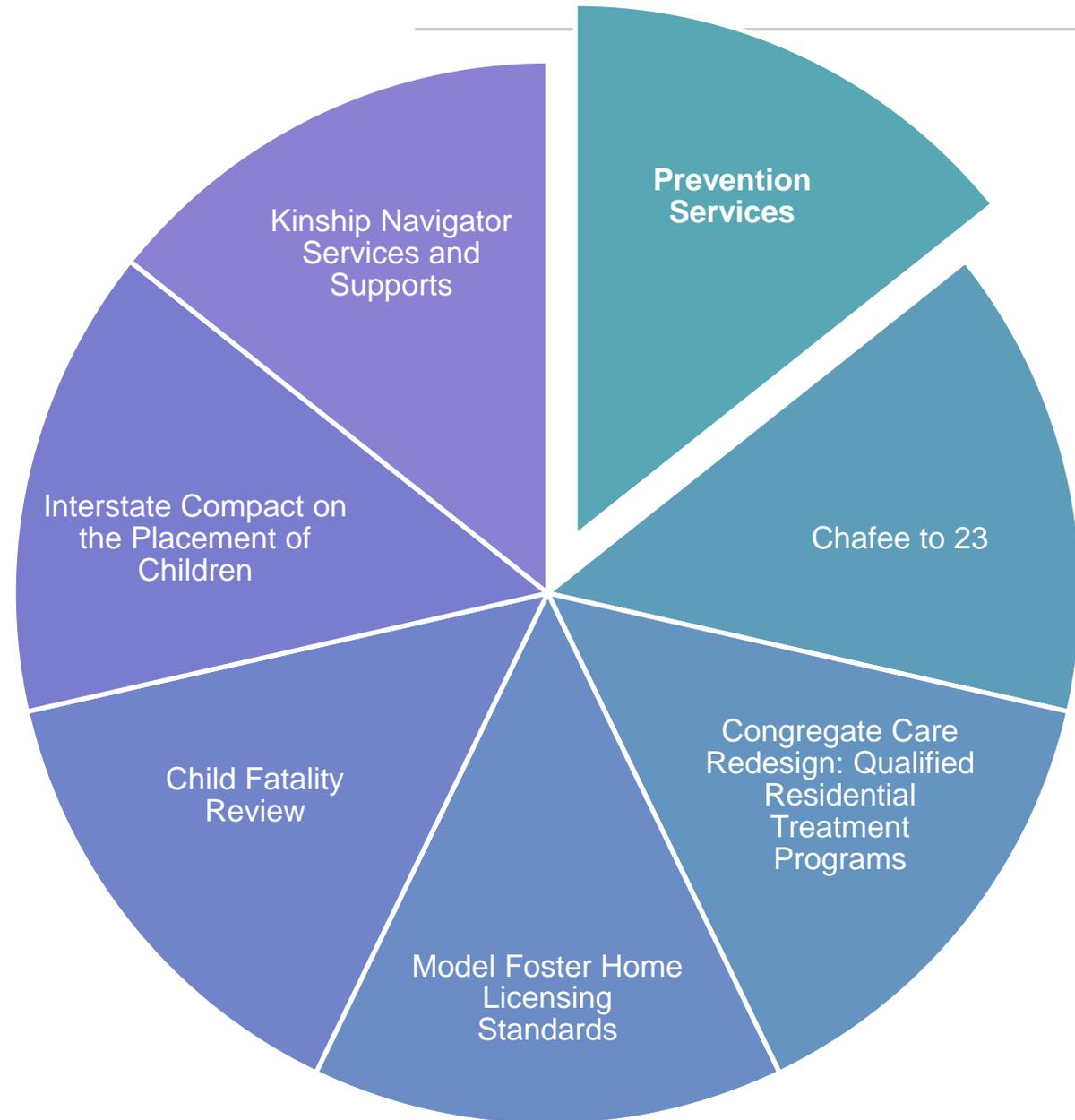
Family First: An Overview



FFPSA Overview

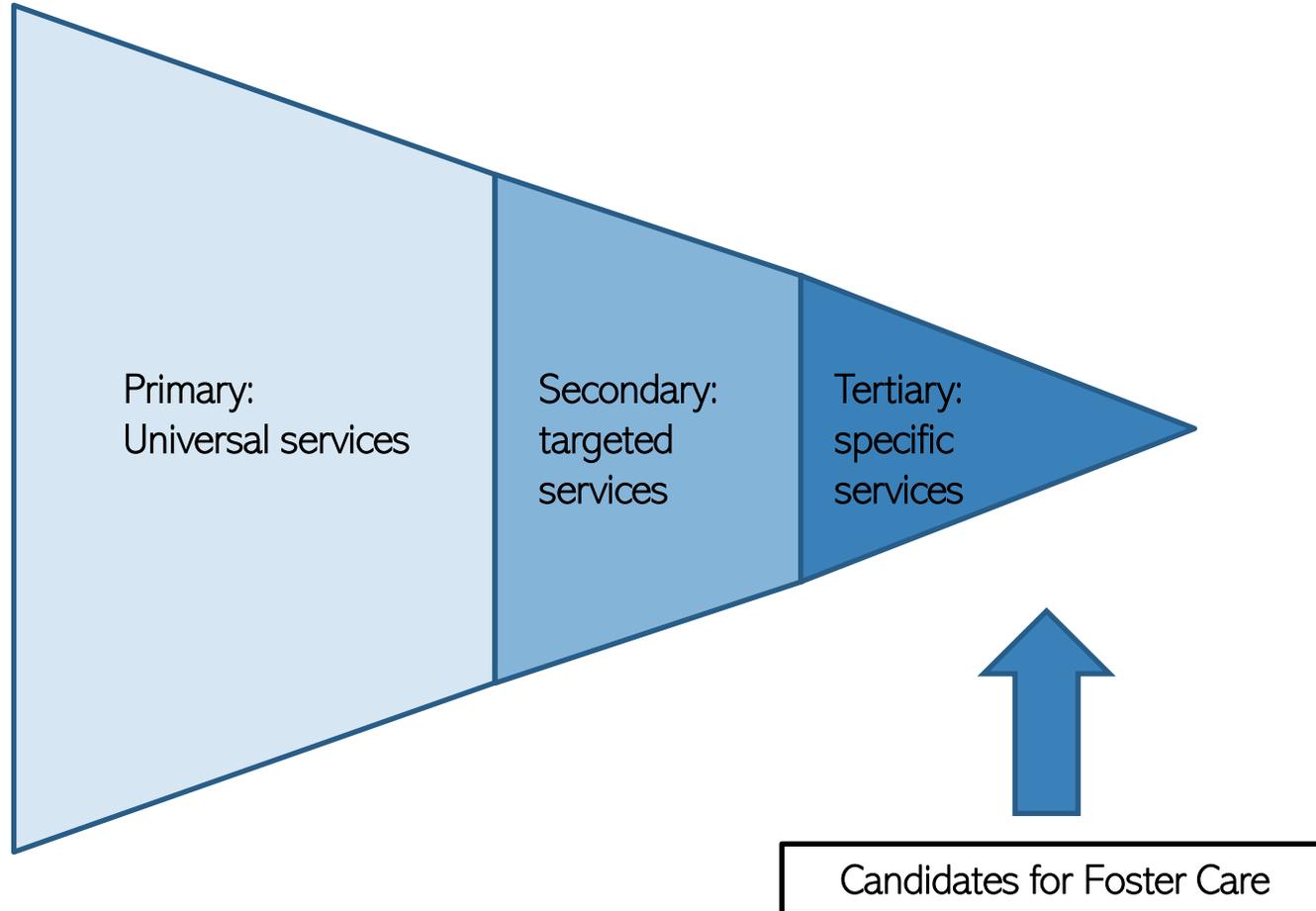
Aligns financing with research about what is best for children:

- At home, with family, and in community whenever safe and possible
- If children/youth have to enter care, they are in the most family-like setting to meet their needs





Prevention Services Continuum



[Resource link for a more detailed continuum graphic](#)



Prevention Services



- **Eligibility:**
 - Children who are candidates for foster care
 - Parents and caregivers of children who are candidates
 - Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
- **Services:**
 - Mental health, substance abuse, in-home parent skill-based programs
- **Evidence Criteria:**
 - Well-supported, supported, promising
 - Clearinghouse continues to rate programs
 - Guidance for tribes operating IV-E systems
- **Requires states to submit a Title IV-E Prevention Plan**



Title IV-E Clearinghouse Prevention Services

	Mental Health	Substance Abuse*	Parenting^
Well-Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional Family Therapy • Multisystemic Therapy* • Parent-Child Interaction Therapy • Brief Strategic Family Therapy*^ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivational Interviewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Families America • Nurse-Family Partnership • Parents as Teachers • Homebuilders
Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidimensional Family Therapy*^ • Interpersonal Psychotherapy (Weissman et al.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families Facing the Future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SafeCare
Promising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy • Child Parent Psychotherapy • Incredible Years – Toddler Basic Program and School Age Basic Program • Triple P – Positive Parenting Program (Level 4: Group, Self-Directed, and Standard) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methadone Maintenance Therapy 	

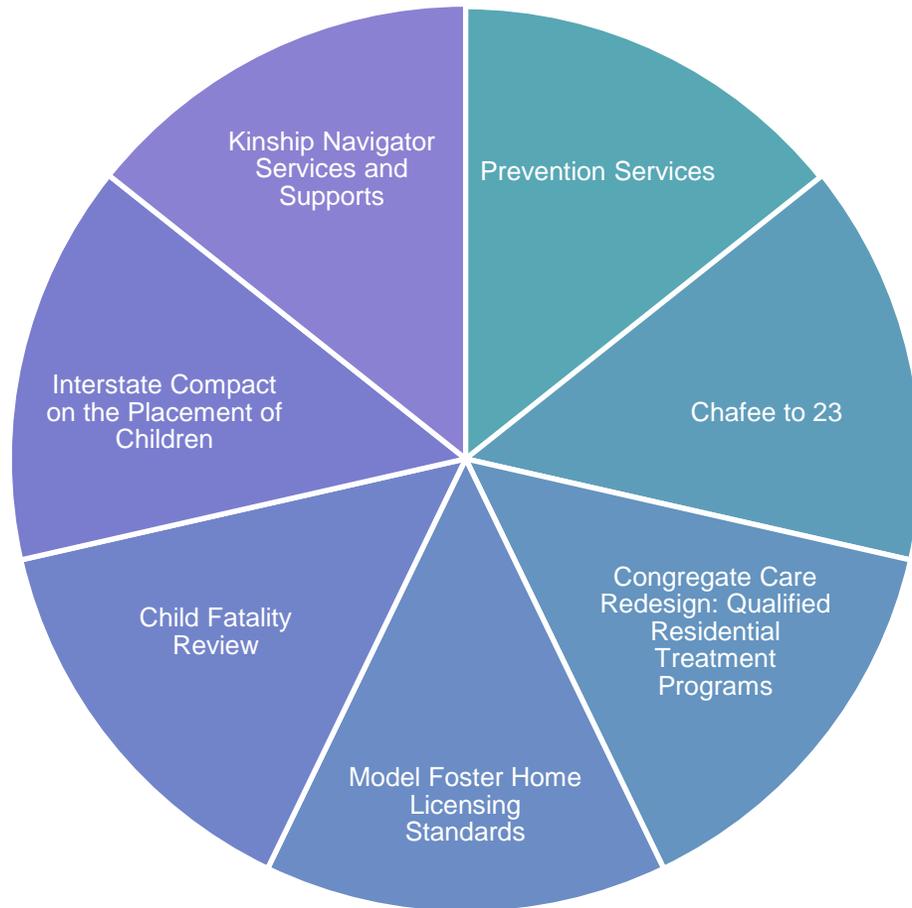


FFPSA: Overview of Ohio's Title IV-E Prevention Plan



Supporting System Transformation in Ohio

Strategies for Achieving System Transformation



Ohio's System Transformation Goals

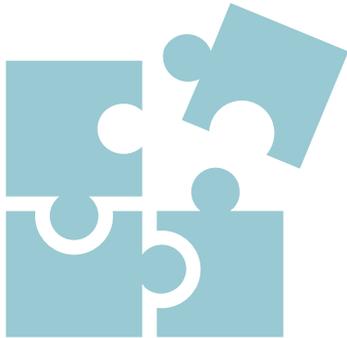
Children deserve safe families and communities that prioritize their best interests and family of origin

Children and families should have access to a standard level of care regardless of where they live

Children should be raised in family-based settings and have a family to call their own before becoming an adult



Family First + Ohio



- ❑ FFPSA is bigger than just prevention and congregate care redesign, it is about **transforming child welfare**
- ❑ OFC and PCSAs are **part of the solution** and are key to supporting a culture shift and driving practice change
- ❑ Child welfare system transformation is **aligned with, and supports priorities** of sister agencies by contributing toward overarching goals for Ohio's children and families
 - *A consistent framework and approach for Ohio's work in all areas of the state*
 - *Statewide practice model and vision for children and family services broadly*
 - *Equity in access to responsive prevention services*



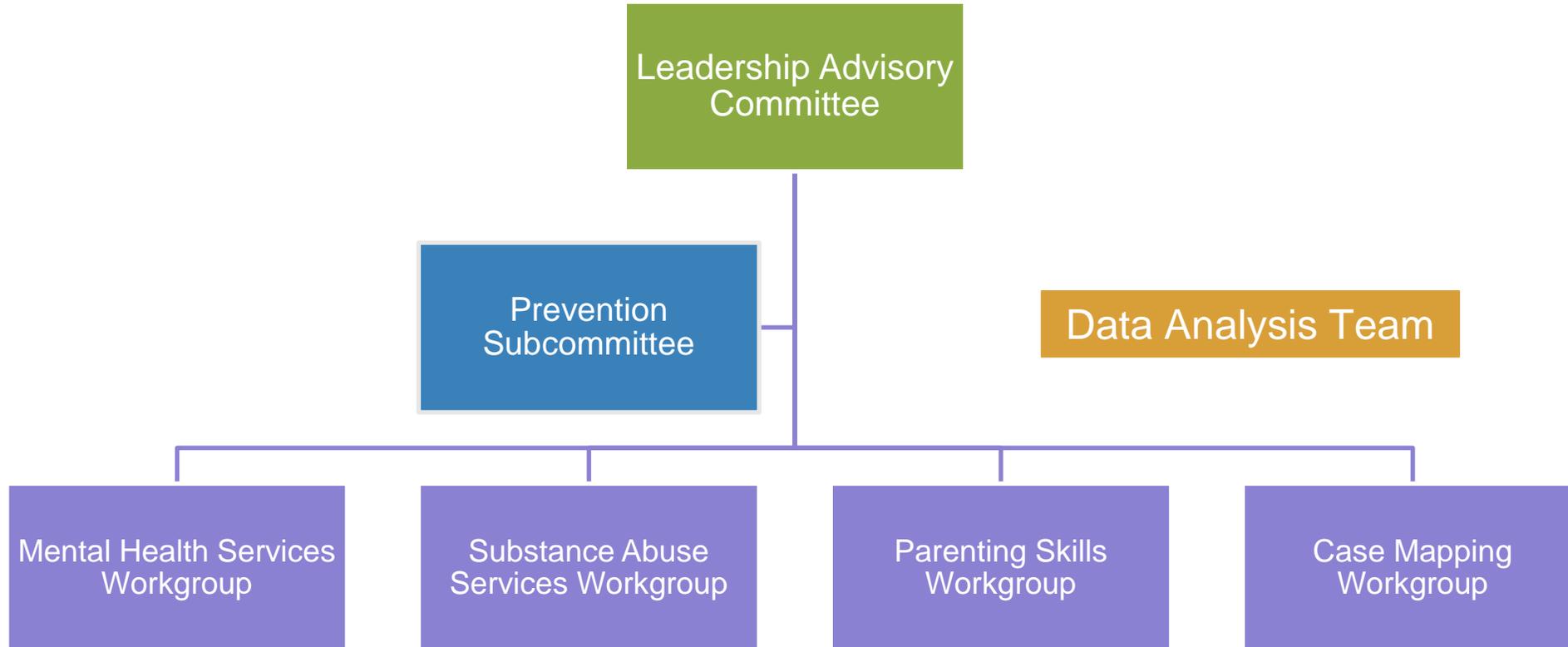
Planning Structure

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Introduction: A Vision for Ohio's Child Welfare System

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- Implementation of prevention services through FFPSA supports Ohio's vision for transforming the system to ensure it is more effective in serving families. This includes **transforming case practice and system-design** to better promote safety, mitigate risk, and support families with services they need to thrive.
- Moving forward with FFPSA builds on Ohio's investments in prevention including through the Title IV-E Waiver (ProtectOHIO) and the Governor's initiatives for better serving children and families.
- As Ohio implements this new vision and way of serving children and families it will require strengthening partnerships with community-based partners. There is an opportunity to implement evidence-based programs that are aligned with frameworks used in Ohio, including Strengthening Families



Candidacy

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- **From the law:** ‘child who is a candidate of foster care’ to mean “a child who is identified in a prevention plan under section 471(e)(4)(A) as being at imminent risk of entering foster care...but who can remain safely in the child’s home or in kinship placement as long as services of programs specified in section 471(e)(1) that are necessary to prevent the entry of the child into foster care are provided.” (Sec. 50711).
- **Program instruction:** A “child who is a candidate for foster care” includes a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement (section 475(13) of the Act).



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1. A child who has an open in-home child welfare case and is receiving services. This includes the following types of open in-home cases: court ordered protective supervision, voluntary cases, children with an in or out of home (including with kinship) safety plan, and children who are involved in multiple systems including juvenile justice, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities.
2. Infants with an inadequate plan of safe care in accordance with CARA who have been screened-in at the hotline and have assessed safety and risk concerns/identified for FFPSA track by the Title IV-E Agency.
3. Siblings and other children in the home of a child in foster care who are 1) living with the parent who the child in foster was removed from and 2) there is an open case with a goal of reunification for the child who is in foster care with the removal parent.



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4. Siblings and other children in the home of a child who has experienced a screened in fatality with a substantiated or indicated TR and siblings and or the child and siblings of a child who has experienced a screened in near-fatality who has a substantiated or indicated TR and has assessed safety and risk concerns/identified for FFPSA track by the Title IV-E Agency.
5. Children who have discharged from custody and achieved permanency, including with a relative, recently (within the last 12 months) and the parent/caregiver agrees to ongoing services.
6. Children who have been adopted recently (within the last 12 months) and there are assessed safety and risk concerns/identified for FFPSA track by the Title IV-E Agency.
7. Children who are at-risk of experiencing a dissolved adoption.
8. Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care, including those who are in extended foster care.



Tile IV-E Prevention Services

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Phase 1

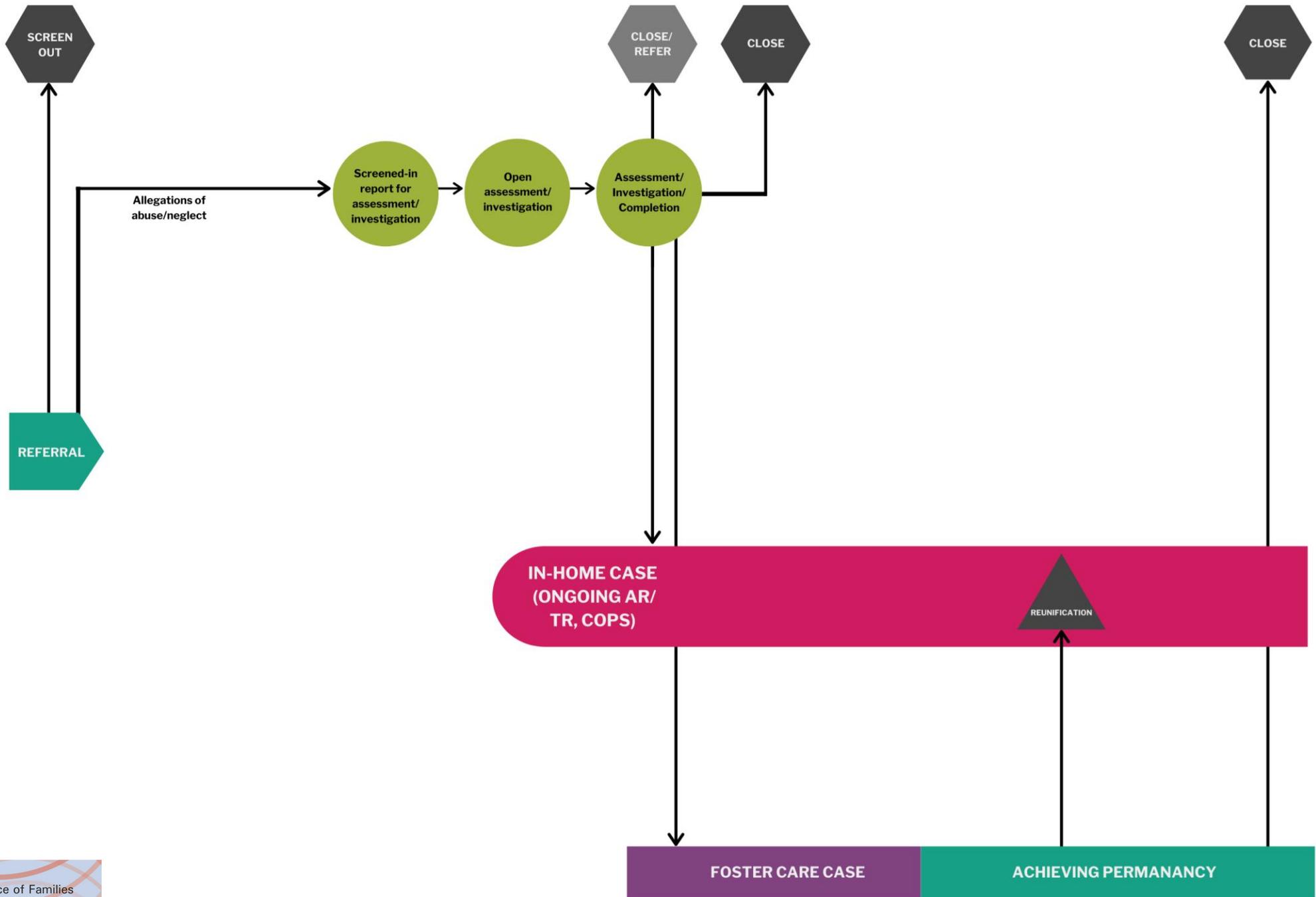
- **MH:** Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy
- **SU:** OhioSTART+
- **PP:** Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families America

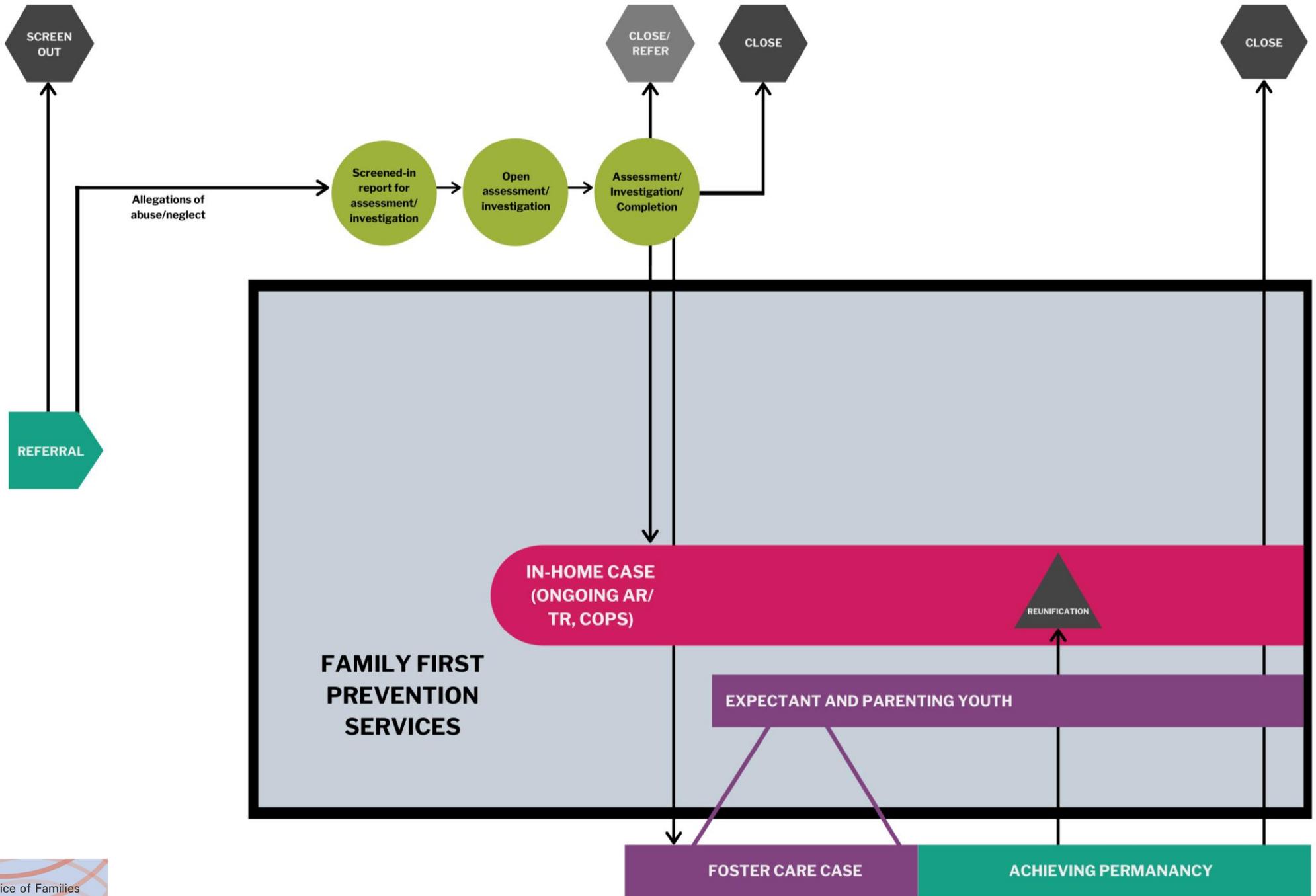
Phase 2

- **MH:** Hi-Fi Wrap[^], Triple P, Incredible Years⁺
- **SU:** 7 Challenges⁺, Motivational Interviewing

Phase 3

- **MH:** Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Child Parent Psychotherapy, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- **PP:** Nurse Family Partnership







Case Map

Ohio

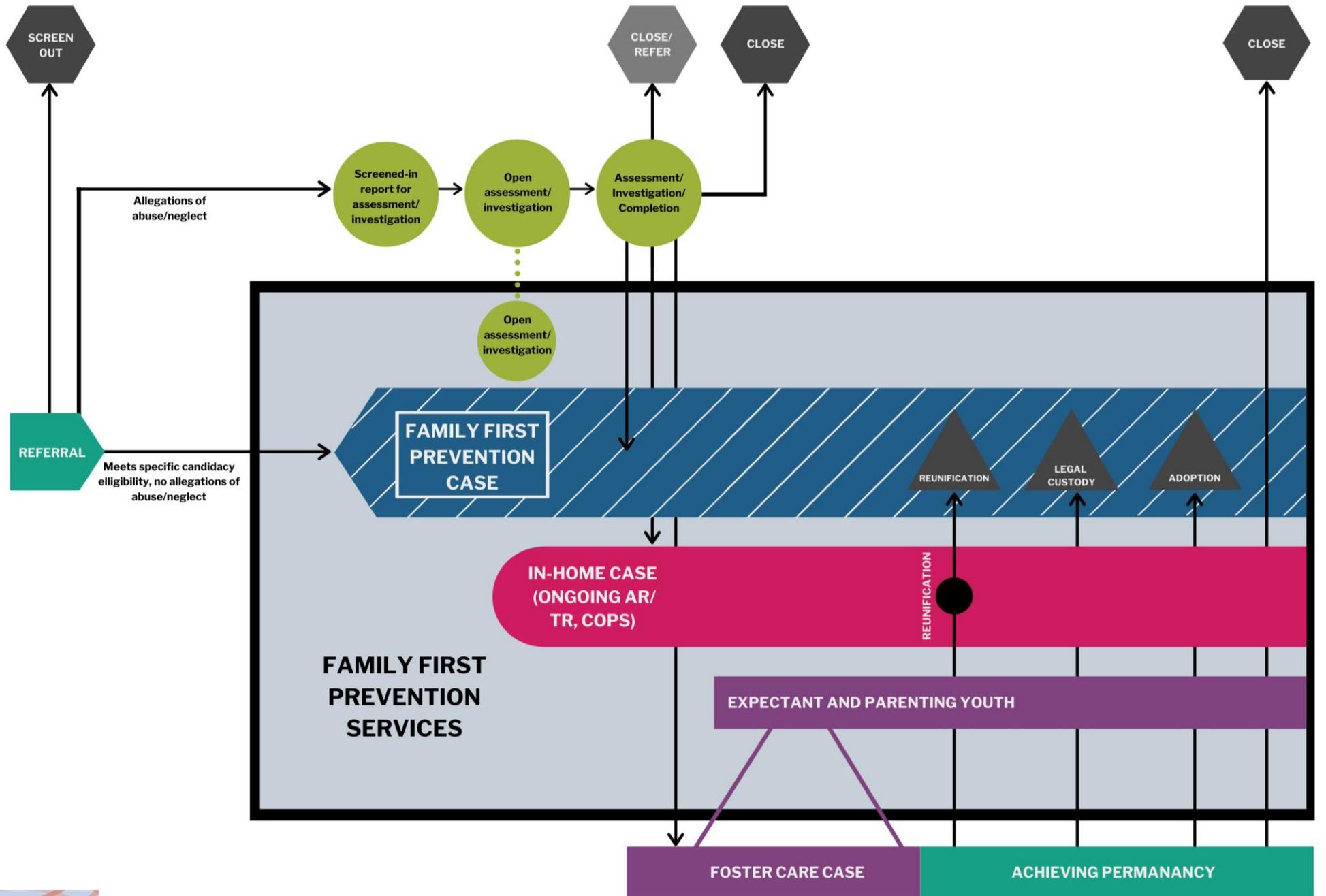
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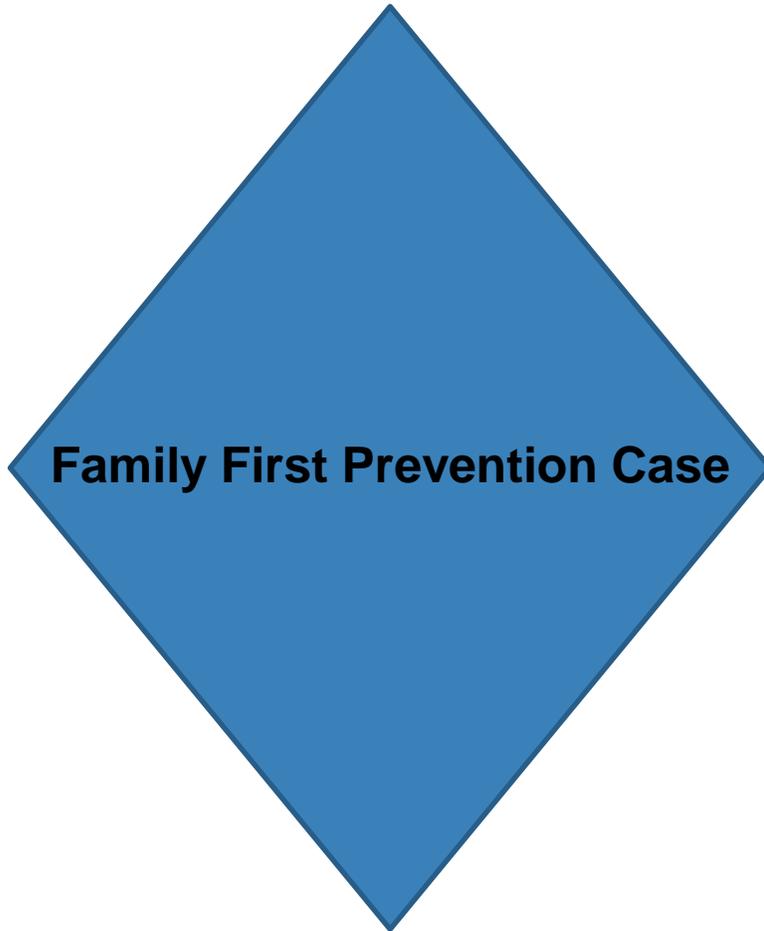
Family First Prevention Services

Financing Shift	Practice Shift
Services eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement	Not a new type case
	Services provided to candidates served through an open case
	Opportunity to build capacity for evidence-based services





Case Map



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Financing Shift	Organizational Shift
Services eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement	New type of case – opportunity to serve children and their families
	Strict eligibility requirements
	New policy and practice



Case Map

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Existing Tools to Support Practice and Organizational Shifts

Domain	Existing Tool	Possible Adaptation Needed
Eligibility Determination by PCSA	Intake screening	Include specific candidacy eligibility categories; utilize group decision-making and RED Team to determine candidacy eligibility
	Safety Assessment	Integrate candidacy eligibility categories
	Family Assessment	Integrate candidacy eligibility categories
Prevention Plan	Existing case planning tools	Build the prevention plan into the case plan so that it appears as one plan but also can be taken out and used separately, including for when a case steps down from open case to a Family First Prevention Case. Opportunity to use OHIO Start community portal for case planning with more providers in the community.
Services	Existing case planning tools	Include evidence-based services that can be provided internally (e.g. Motivational Interviewing and Solution Based Casework)
Monitoring	90-day case review	All of the existing tools need to be adapted to look at risk more versus safety. Existing Risk Assessment Structured Decision-Making tools use some metrics that are static, including number of previous investigations and open cases. The new tool needs to be dynamic and support the assessment of risk in real-time. These updates are already in process.
	Semi-annual case review	
	Family Assessment	



FFPSA: Roadmap for Implementation



Implementation

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- Next steps → moving to the “how”
- Does not have to be completely fleshed out in the Title IV-E Prevention Plan
- Big areas of focus include:
 - Policy: OAC and ORC
 - Automated Systems
 - Procedure/Practices Considerations
 - Data Considerations
 - Training/Technical Assistance
 - Resource and Capacity Building
 - Communication



Implementation

Policy and Protocols	Automated Systems	Procedure/Practice Considerations	Data Considerations	Training/Technical Assistance	Resource and Capacity Building	Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and protocols to guide practice for Family First Prevention Cases. • Develop and issue strong guidance and oversight to ensure families are served through the appropriate case track. • Update rules accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACWIS enhancements for new Title IV-E tracking and reporting requirements. • Opportunity to update SACWIS and tools to support organizational shift and practice changes including incorporate the prevention plan. • Build out community portal to support Family First Prevention Cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to address how workers responsible for Family First Prevention Cases are organized (including caseloads). • Impact on workload of Family First Prevention Cases will vary across counties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI processes, reporting of data measures, data collection and data analysis to measure outcomes over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive training and ongoing coaching with all staff and stakeholders to explain the culture shift to providing foster care prevention services. • Title IV-E Courts will need to be trained on the new opportunities to provide prevention services (i.e. candidacy eligibility and expectations for case management). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based providers will need to be strong partners for supporting families being served through a Family First Prevention Case. • An RFP for service providers an fidelity and evaluation monitoring are in development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be buy-in from all stakeholders in the new vision, particularly the judiciary.



Conversation



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- Group Questions:
 - What are some of the opportunities you see to ensure best practice with children and families?



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- Group Questions:

- What are some of the barriers you anticipate? What are you worried about?
- What are some strategies that can be leveraged to address potential barriers to implementation?



Poll Questions

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- What will your workers need in order to support families and connect them to services?
 - Service array (i.e. EBP service description, providers)
 - Referral processes (i.e. referral forms, contact with service providers, family needs vs. service type)
 - Educational materials for families, communities and local partners
 - Communication (i.e. local/community engagement)
 - Training (i.e. rules, processes, SACWIS, services)
 - Other



Poll Questions

- What's one thing that you need to support workers?
 - Materials to support and coach workers (i.e. training/TA on rules, policy and supervision of prevention caseloads)
 - Service array services (i.e. EBP service description, providers)
 - Referral processes (i.e. referral forms, contact with service providers, family needs vs. service type)
 - Communication (i.e. local/community engagement, relationship with court, law enforcement, schools)
 - Understanding of the reimbursement rate and process
 - Other



Next Steps



Next Steps

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- ◎ Filing the Title IV-E Prevention Plan with the federal government

- ◎ Implementation of prevention services
 - Prevention services rules and SACWIS enhancements
 - Prevention services training plan
 - RFP for service provision, fidelity and evaluation monitoring

- ◎ QRTP
 - Procedure Letters
 - QRTP requirement Q/A and guidance documents
 - QRTP assessment rules



Resources

- <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Family-First.stm>
- <https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/child-welfare/family-first/>
- <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/FFPSA-Roadmap.stm>
- <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/FFPSA-PreventionRecommendations.stm>
- <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/FFPSA-CaseFlow.stm>
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/laws-policies/whats-new>
- <https://familyfirstact.org/>
- <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>



Thank you!