

# FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Current Status – August 2021

# Major Elements of Family First – In Review

## Prevention

Transforming the child welfare focus from foster care to prevention of foster care and increased family stability and well-being

## Evidence Based Programs & Services

Focusing and strengthening the service array. Using what works. Results based accountability

## Quality Residential Care

Right-sizing group and residential care for children with a clinical need

## System Alignment & Integration

Opportunity for siloed departments to share mission, collaborate fiscally and enhance service delivery; integrate congregate care with community care

## Family Focused Care

Support for kinship networks, recruitment of foster families, reunification, model foster care regulations, Family Finding

# Timeline for FFPSA

Activity	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21
Foundation Setting & Prevention Plan Section 1 Introduction	Convene Family First Kick-Off Meeting	Begin planning section 1: - Establish Theory of Change - Develop & implement strategy to engage stakeholders	Continue planning section 1: - Draft section 1			Compile draft section 1 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	Prevention Plan submitted!
Communications		Develop a Family First communication plan - Craft key set of messaging points and sequential set of steps by segmented audience	Implement communications plan					
Section 2 Candidacy		Begin planning section 2: - Assess agency analytical capacity - Finalize Data Sharing Agreement - Obtain data for candidacy analysis	Continue planning section 2: - Conduct candidacy data analysis - Identify candidacy subgroups - Draft candidacy considerations and obtain feedback from stakeholders	Continue planning section 2: - Finalize candidacy considerations - Draft section 2		Compile draft section 2 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	
Section 3 Title IV-E Prevention Services		Begin planning section 3: - Explore existing work done to identify EBPs and assess provider readiness - Develop jurisdiction-specific Provider Readiness Assessment survey - Conduct instructional webinars to support providers with survey	Continue planning section 3: - Conduct Provider Readiness Assessment survey	Continue planning section 3: - Analyze findings from Provider Readiness Assessment survey - Convene key stakeholders to review provider Readiness Assessment findings and make recommendations about EBPs to be included in the plan	Continue planning section 3: - Finalize the selection of EBPs - Draft Section 3: Title IV-E Prevention Services	Compile draft section 3 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	
Section 4 Child-Specific Prevention Plan			Begin planning Section 4: - Convene key stakeholders to develop operational case flow activities (e.g. eligibility determination, child level service/Prevention Plan, referrals, information sharing, safety monitoring, claiming)	Continue planning Section 4 & Section 5: - Identify screening and risk and safety tools and processes - Identify infrastructure needs related to IT, staff support, and processes to support child level reporting to CB	Continue planning Section 4 & Section 5: - Draft section 4 - Draft section 5	Compile draft sections 4 & 5 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	
Section 5 Monitoring Child Safety								
Section 6 Evaluation & Waiver Request				Begin planning Section 6: - Begin developing overall approach to evaluation and CQI of prevention programs	Continue planning Section 6: - Draft section 6	Compile draft section 6 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	
Section 7 Child Welfare Workforce Training				Begin planning Section 7: - Gather information about EBP provider workforce skills and capacity to deliver selected EBPs - Gather information about jurisdiction workforce skills and capacity to implement the Prevention Plan		Compile draft section 7 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	
Section 8 Prevention Caseloads				Begin planning section 8: - Gather information to describe how caseload size and type for prevention caseworkers will be determined	Continue planning Section 8: - Draft section 8	Compile draft section 8 into full draft and obtain feedback	Incorporate feedback into Prevention Plan draft	

# What has happened recently?



Candidacy Definition  
Finalized

Evidenced Based  
Programs in the process  
of being solidified for  
Prevention Plan inclusion

# Candidacy Definition

## Children and Families Served by FSD In Home *(non-court involved cases)*

- Children ages 0-17
  - Under 6 with a safety plan
  - Under 2 with moderate risk rating
  - Ages 6-11 with "very high" risk rating
- Families with CHINB Assessment and moderate risk rating
- Families experiencing parental substance use disorders and/or child mental or behavioral health concerns
- Assessment tools: SDM Safety Assessment, Risk Assessment, and [needs assessment tool]

## Children Served by FSD In Home with Sibling in Care

- Children ages 0-17
- Assessment tools: SDM Safety Assessment & Risk Assessment

## Community Pathways w/o DCF involvement

- Children ages 0-17
- Families with multiple unaccepted reports, with or without a subsequent accepted report
- Families experiencing parental or child substance use disorders, mental or behavioral health concerns, or parenting skill needs
- Children placed formally or Informally with kin caregivers

## Court-involved Families

- Children ages 0-17
- Children ages 0-5 in Conditional Custody Orders with "Safe" finding on Safety Assessment
- Assessment tool: SDM Safety Assessment

## Children and Families Who have Exited Foster Care *(post-permanency)*

- Children ages 0-17
- Children exited to reunification
- Children exited to guardianship
- Children exited to adoption
- Children exited to alternative/other planned living arrangement
- Opportunity to continue serving children as voluntary, FSD non-court cases

## FSD In-Home Juvenile Probation Youth

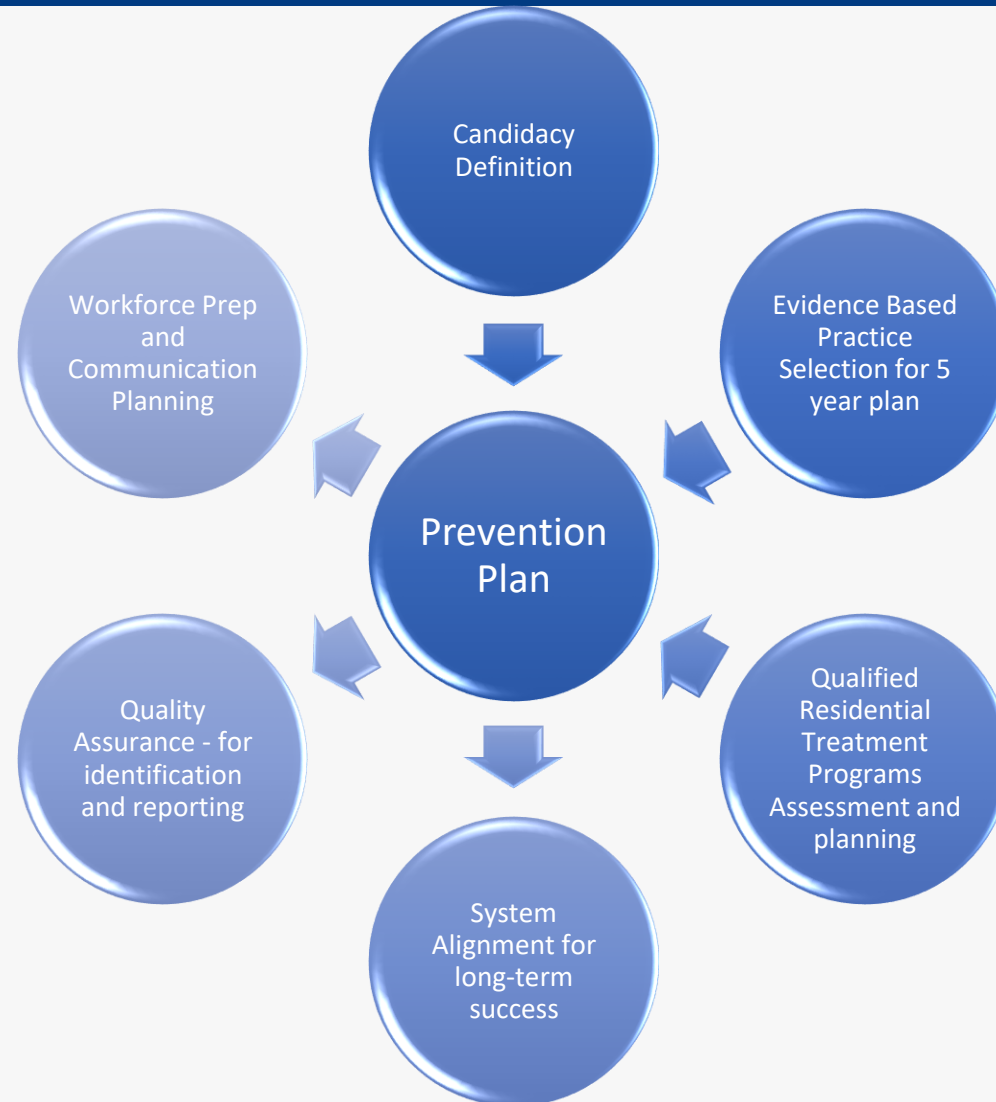
- Youth ages 12+ served through Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) cases
- Assessment tools: Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI)

## Children in Established Adoptions or Guardianships at Risk of Disruption, including Kin Caregivers

- Children ages 0-17

Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care are categorically eligible for Family First prevention services

# VT's Prevention Plan in Process



# FFPSA Impacts on Congregate Care

FFPSA adds requirements on the State of Vermont to continue to draw down Title IV-E funds for residential treatment of children in DCF custody.



# Child is in Need of Residential Treatment

- 350 placements of children will need to be evaluated per year.
- These placements represent 150 to 200 total children.
  - 286 placements of youth ages 12-17 years old;
  - 64 placements of a child younger than 12.



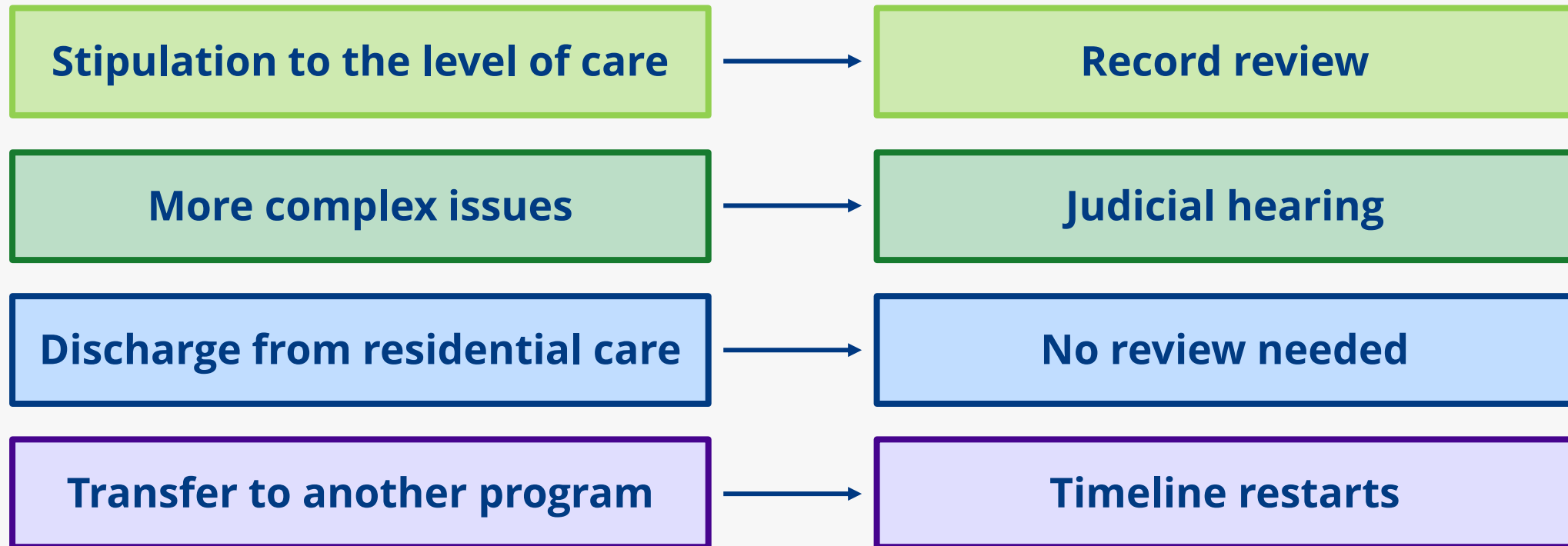
# 30-Day Assessment

An assessment to determine level of care must be completed within 30 days for IV-E draw down. The assessment must be:

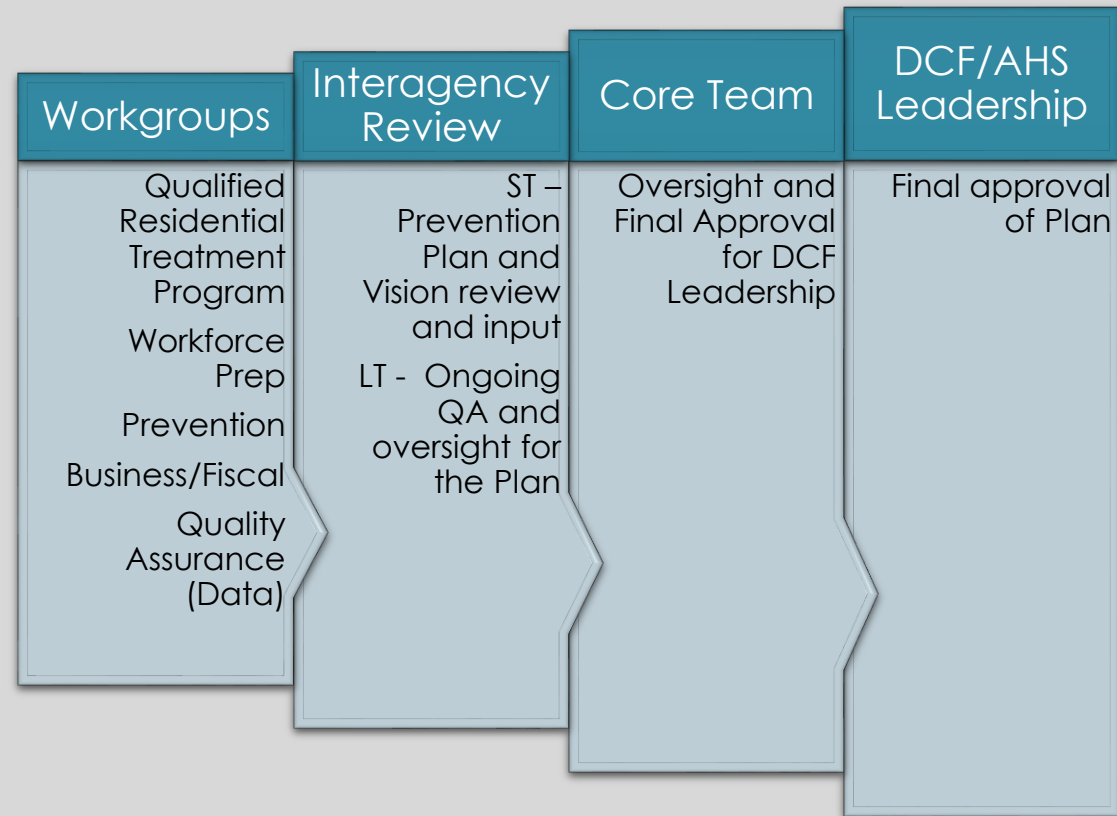
- Independent
- Use an evidence-based tool
- A determination made in conjunction with the child's treatment team
- If the assessor's recommendation is different than the treatment team, an explanation must be included

# 60-Day Judicial Review

**The residential placement of the child must be affirmed within 60 days of placement for IV-E draw down.**



# SYSTEM ALIGNMENT AT A CLOSER GLANCE



# Acronym Buster Slide



FFPSA – Family First Prevention Services Act



QRTP – Qualified Residential Treatment Program



EBP – Evidence Based Program



QA – Quality Assurance

# QUESTIONS??

