

Alabama's Foster Care System

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Wednesday, July 20, 2011
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**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

Faculty

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AL Foster Care Statistics

- There are approximately 5,700 youth currently in foster care in Alabama
- Approximately 2,200 youth are between the ages of 14-21
- Approximately 1,700 are under the age of six
- There are an equal number of males and females

Why Are Children Removed from Their Home?

- **Safety**
 - Children are removed when safety risks cannot be managed in the home

Why Are Children Removed from Their Home?

- Examples of safety concerns include:
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Neglect
 - Abandonment

Where Are the Children?

- Over 50% of the children reside in approved non-related and related foster homes
- Other placement types include:
 - Child care institutions
 - Group homes
 - Therapeutic foster homes

Where Are the Children?

- Medically fragile homes
- Adoptive homes
- Mental health facilities
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Nursing homes

Children Awaiting Adoption

- Approximately 570 children are legally free and awaiting adoption
- About 300 have the goal to be adopted by foster parents
- 75-80% have special needs
- In FY 2010 more than 550 children were adopted

What Are Health Care Issues of Youth in Foster Care

- Limited or no previous health care
- Physical injuries or disabilities
- Dietary requirements
- Mental and emotional issues
- Dental issues
- Medication management
- Immunizations

Health Care Services for Youth in Foster Care

- Medical assessment upon entering care
- Record of brief medical history
- Document the child's current condition
- Determine the child is free from contagious disease

Health Care Services for Youth in Foster Care

- Identify needed medical concerns and treatment needed
- Screen for social, emotional or mental health concerns
- Assessment to be completed prior to entry, but no later than 10 days after entering care

Medicaid Eligible Youth

- Initial EPSDT
- Annual EPSDT screening through Health Department to identify appropriate services

Medicaid Eligible Youth

- **Services may include:**
 - Medical
 - Dental
 - Vision
 - Physical or occupational therapy
 - Speech therapy
 - Rehabilitation services
 - Psychological services

Services for Youth Not Eligible for Medicaid

- Private insurance (family)
- Referral for SOBRA Medicaid
- ALL Kids
- Child Caring Foundation (BC/BS)
- Private insurance (DHR)

Health Care Planning for Youth in Foster Care

- **Comprehensive Family Assessments**
 - Includes developmental information related to emotional and physical functioning

Health Care Planning for Youth in Foster Care

- **Individualized Service Planning Process**
 - Process by which a team is established for the specific case to develop, implement and monitor case planning around safety, permanency, and well-being

Who Can Serve on the Individualized Service Planning Team?

- Parents and family
- Social workers
- Medical professionals
- Counselors and therapists
- Teachers

Who Can Serve on the Individualized Service Planning Team?

- Guardian ad Litem
- Foster parents and caretakers
- Coaches
- Family friends

Pending Issues in Health Care

- Lost medical history
- Increasing medical costs
- Psychotropic medications
- Limited medical histories
- Medical coverage for transitioning older youth
- Specialized mental health services
- Health care support post foster care

To Learn More About Alabama's Foster Children

**Alabama Department of Human Resources
Office of Permanency
334 - 242 - 9500**



Alabama needs both
foster care and adoptive
resources that can serve
the various needs
of our children

To Learn More About Alabama's Foster Children

1-866-4-AL-KIDS (1-866-425-5437)

www.dhr.state.al.us

www.adoptuskids.org

www.heartgalleryalabama.com

www.adoption.com