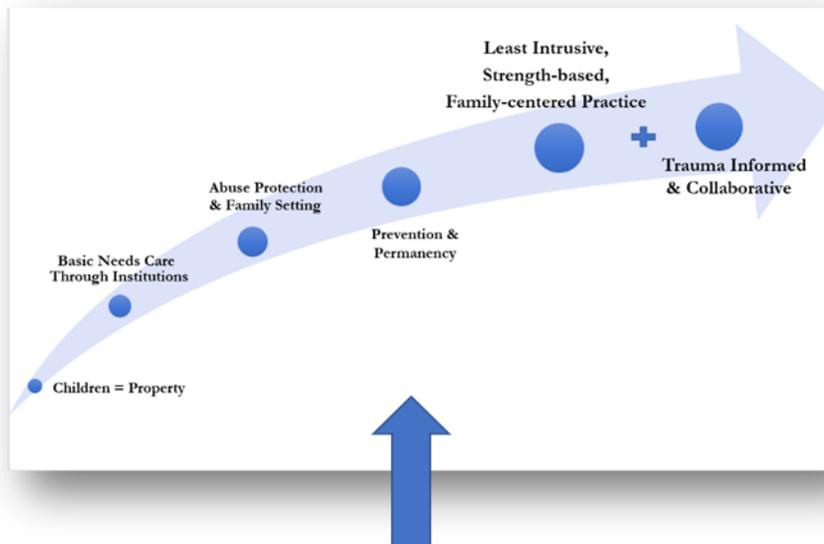


The Child Welfare Evolution



Prevention & Permanency

- Our concerns today with the issues of remediation, strengthening families, and reunification are not new. The American Humane Association Annual Report of 1906 called for:
 - Remedial work with families
 - Statewide programs to strengthen families
 - Collaborative community-based services, including protective services, and foster care placement, especially in the homes of relatives
 - Reuniting children with their families as quickly as possible while maintaining safety
- The beginnings of the twentieth century saw the emergence of a unifying theme that would shape the history of child welfare to the present day:
 - Recognition of the supreme importance of a stable, caring family to the life of a child. The maintenance of the family is the cornerstone of social life.
 - This theme was a primary focus concerning:
 - Finding justice for children
 - The relationship between poverty and neglect

- Punishment versus rehabilitation of abusing parents
 - The appropriate structure and function of placement resources
 - The legitimacy of home-based services versus placement in cases of child abuse and neglect.
- In 1911, Illinois passed, and 39 other states adopted, the first statewide mother's pension law. This growing sentiment set the stage for the enactment of the Social Security Act of 1935. Aid to dependent children was established as a federal entitlement for poor mothers who had children and no paternal support.
 - Between 1920 and 1950, the social work profession evolved from an altruistic and moralistic exercise to focus on understanding individual and social dynamics supporting self-determination, and, to the recognition of the inherent dignity of all people, toward the goal of helping both individuals and communities to solve their problems. (Hollis and Taylor 1951).
 - For the first half of the twentieth century, child welfare services varied from state to state, province to province, and community to community. Child welfare services were not universally required.
 - The general values of these protective service agencies were greatly varied.
 - Many were legalistic in their approach, attempting to identify abusive parents, legally punish them, and secure placement of the abused or maltreated children.
 - Others were more nonpunitive, supportive, and rehabilitative.
 - There was no general legislation expressing guiding programming for child welfare services.
 - By the 1950s:
 - Court personnel were receiving more and better training.
 - Foster care programs, either as an adjunct of the juvenile court or accessed through child welfare agencies, were a growing resource.
 - Less restrictive institutional facilities were being developed.
 - Community mental health agencies were assuming some of the responsibility for psychological assessments and counseling.
 - Social workers in child welfare agencies were given responsibility for social assessments of children and families and were relied upon to make recommendations to the juvenile court.

- The juvenile courts began and continue today in their attempt to adopt a structure that would allow them to be sufficiently flexible and creative to address the multiple and diverse problems of children and families, and still consistently assure the rights of all.
 - As the juvenile courts began to work collaboratively with child welfare agencies, their respective responsibilities and the mechanisms for collaborative planning and service delivery evolved and continues to evolve through practice today.