



UTAH

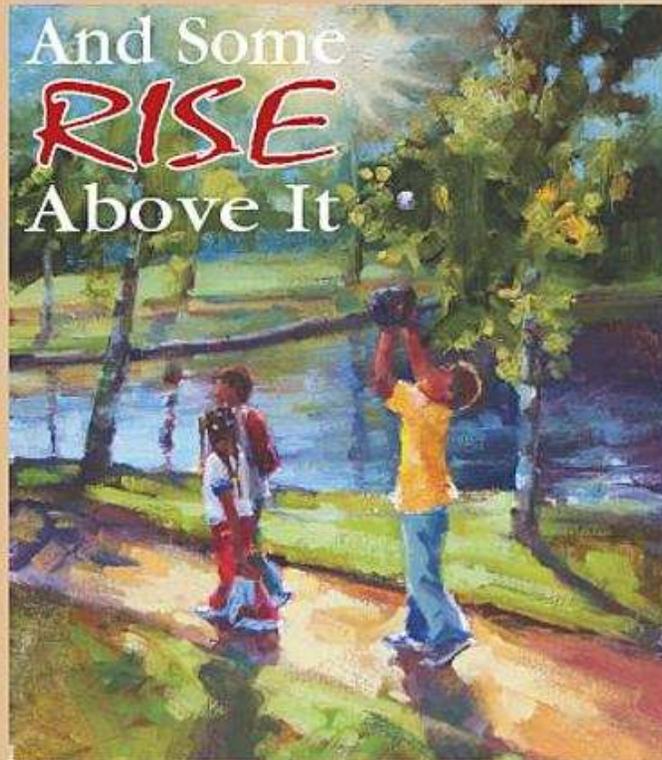
PRACTICE ELEVATED

2012 Court Improvement Summit

Permanency Round Tables- PRT

Jeff Harrop

*Certain memories from our childhood shadow us throughout our lives.
When brilliant memories challenge the heinous, and are victorious, we can smile.*



BASED ON A TRUE STORY
O. Dashawn Patrick



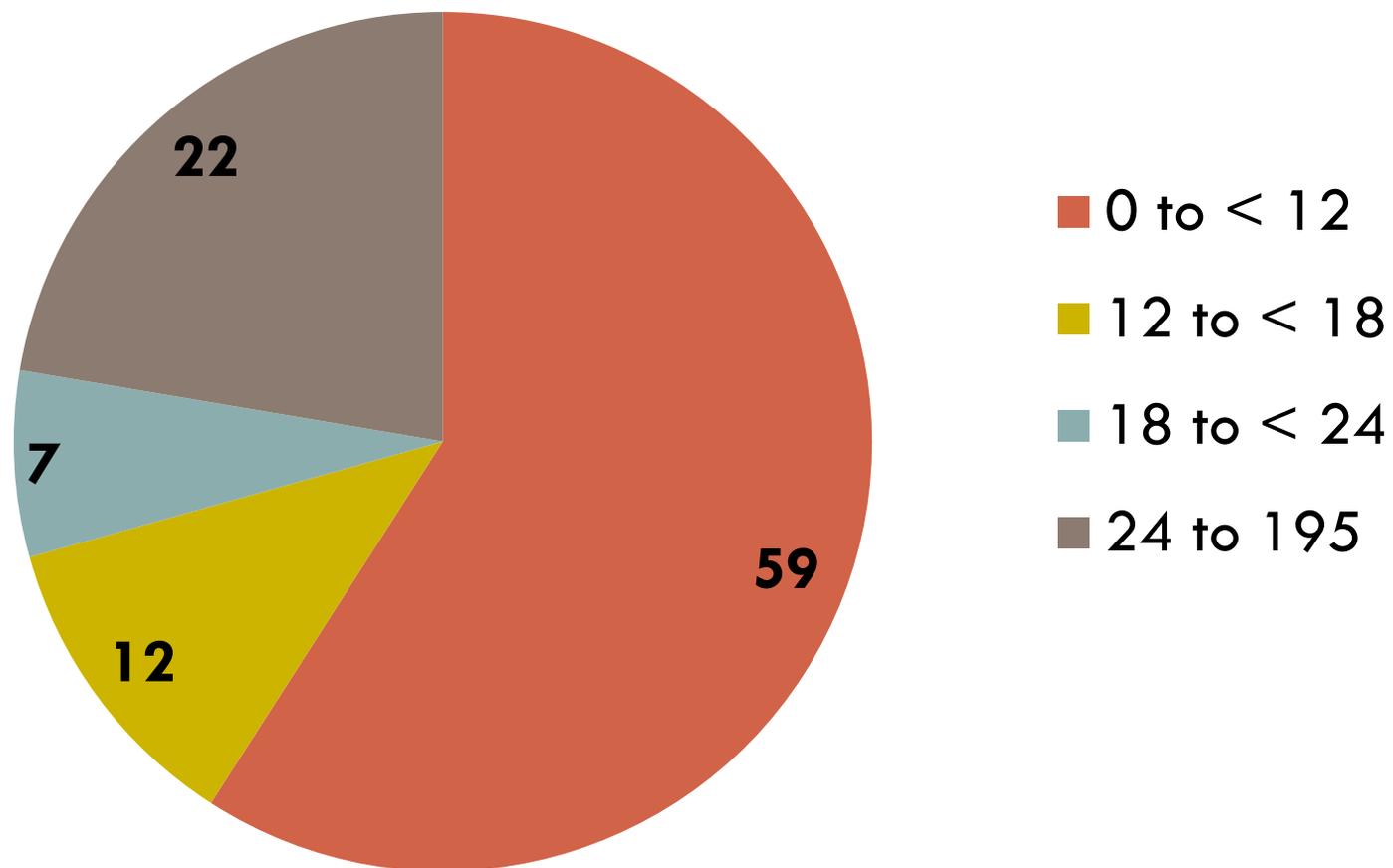
2012 Court Improvement Summit

Some facts about children in Foster Care in the State of Utah.

- There are 2730 Children in Foster care
- 610 or 22% have been in care for 24 Months or more.
 - The youngest of these children is 2 years and 4 months
 - The oldest is 21 years

All Utah SCF Data source r_scf_pit_detail (PIT 01Aug12)

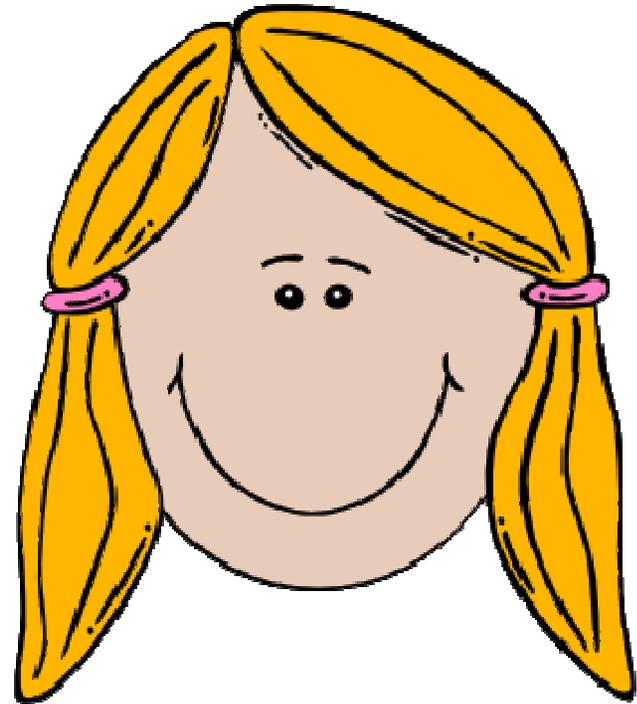
% of Children in Care By Months



Gender



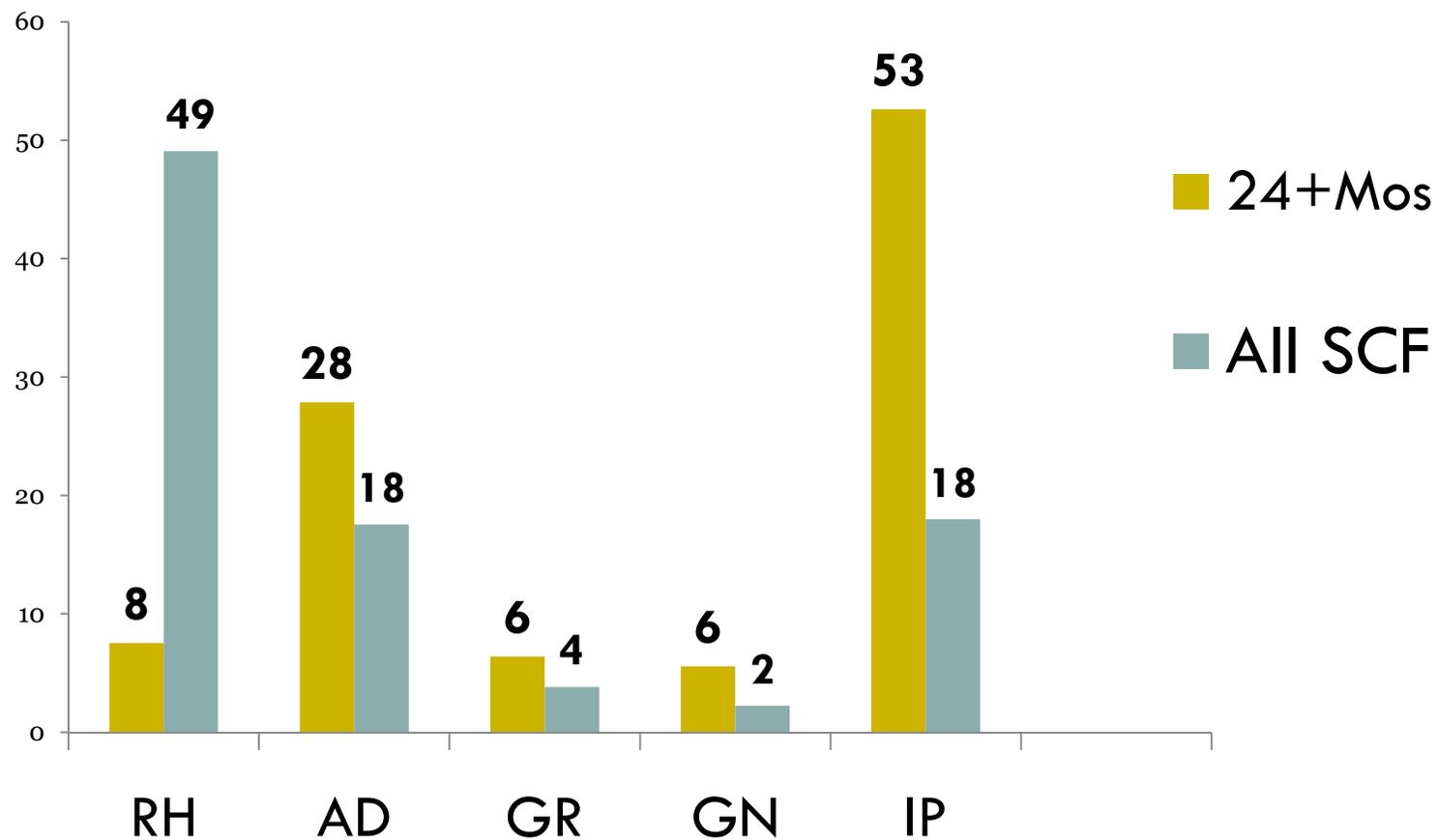
Total SCF - 55%
24+ Months - 59%



Total SCF - 45%
24+ Months - 41%



% Primary Perm Goal





Of the 610 children in care 24+ months

- 53% have a primary goal of Individualized Permanency
- 21% have a concurrent goal of Individualized Permanency

Which means that 74% have a Primary or Concurrent goal to “Age Out” of Foster Care.



Outcomes for children aging out

- More likely to live in the least “Family-Like” settings
- Many have a “Goal” of “Emancipation”
- More than 28,000 do emancipate each year



Outcomes for children aging out

- 12-22% become homeless from day one
- Less likely to be employed
- 37% had not finished high school
- 1.8% completed a bachelors degree



Outcomes for children aging out

- Poverty level incomes
- More likely to have children outside of marriage
- Post Traumatic Stress rates that are double the rate of war veterans

Outcomes for children aging out

- Serious untreated health conditions
- Higher rate of becoming victims of crime or engaging in criminal activity-
 - **over 270,000 American prisoners were once in foster care**



Outcomes for children aging out

- How alarmed should we be that 447 children have a primary or secondary permanency goal to age out of foster?



Bias in the System



Bias in the System- General

- There is only one “perfect” match for this child
- Cross boundary adoptions are too difficult to pursue

Bias in the System- General

- “I am already doing great permanency work”
- No one can care for this child more than I/we do
- We become jaded due to other adoption disruption cases



Bias in the System- Resources

- Placement Stability = Permanency or trumps permanency
- Resources are a sufficient substitute or even better than a family i.e. ETV & scholarships, TAL services, DSPD Services, Medicaid to 21

Bias in the System- the child's desires

- Older children cannot be adopted
- Older children do not want to be adopted
- When a youth says “no” to adoption they mean NO and have thoroughly considered adoption and that is the end of the discussion.



Bias in the system- Reunification

- Families never change
- Extended families have the same issues as the birth parents.



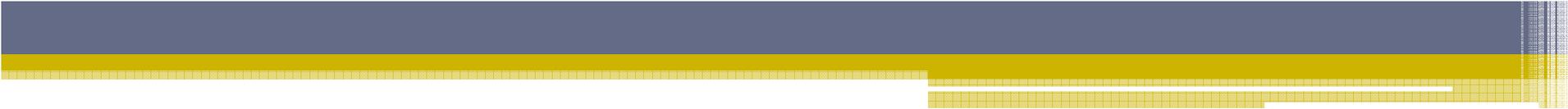
Bias in the System- Behavioral

- “There is no one who will want this child”
- We need to fix the child before we can find a permanent home
- Exaggerating behaviors which might be otherwise typical for the age group - Awfulizing

Annie E. Casey definition of permanency

Family Permanency can best be defined as an enduring family relationship that:

- Is safe and meant to last
- Offers the legal rights and social status of full family membership
- Provides for physical, emotional social, cognitive and spiritual well-being; and
- Assures lifelong connections to extended family, siblings, and other significant adults and to family history and traditions, race, and ethnic heritage, culture, religion and language.



Permanency Round Tables- PRTs

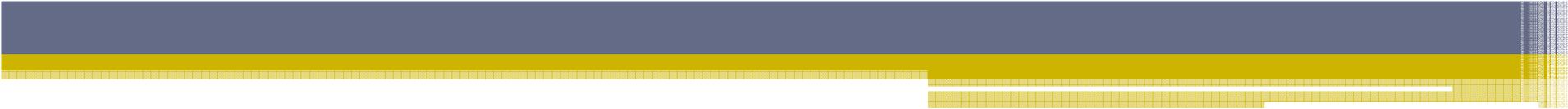
What is a PRT?

- Permanency Focused brain-storming sessions designed to improve the legal and emotional permanent connections for youth
- Designed to be supportive of caseworkers and supervisors
- Focused on the future, bringing a new set of eyes without critiquing past work



PRTs are intended to:

- Develop an innovative and realistic plan that improves the permanency status of youth in short time-frames
- Stimulate thinking and learning about pathways to permanency for this and other children
- Identify and address barriers to permanency through profession development, policy change, resource development, and the engagement of system partners.



Roles of the PRT participants

- Caseworker
- Supervisor
- Neutral Facilitator
- External Permanency Consultant
- Master Practitioners
- Scribe
- Others



The 4 key objectives of the PRT are to:

1. Achieve Legal Permanency for the youth
2. Identify and promote permanent connections for the youth
3. Improve the Permanency Status rating (poor to perm achieved) of the youth
4. Reduce the level of restrictiveness of the youth's placement



The 6 Phases of a PRT session:

1. Welcome, Introductions & Working Agreement
2. Presentation of the case
3. Clarify and Explore- Perm Status Rating
4. Brainstorming Session
5. Create the Permanency Action Plan
6. Debrief case consultation



The 5 Key questions in the Brainstorm

1. What will it take to achieve Permanency for this youth?
2. How can we engage the youth in the permanency planning process?
3. What can we try that has never been tried before?
4. What can we try again?
5. What can we do concurrently?

Tools added through PRTs

- PRT Skills and Values Training for all PRT participants
- Permanency Pact worksheet
- Placement Mapping
- Unpacking the “No”
- Person Locator on-line Resources
- Reintroduction of Family Group Conferencing Model
- Casey Grant (\$) to be used for barrier busting



Critical things to know about PRTs

- PRTs do not replace the Practice Model skills of Engaging, Teaming, Assessing, Planning and Intervening
- PRT session do not replace the Child and Family Team.
- All PRT Action Plans are to be taken to the Family Team for discussion, consideration and implementation



Critical things to know about PRTs

- PRT teams share the responsibility of completing action steps- not the caseworker
- PRT action plans are reviewed monthly by the caseworker and supervisor
- Action plans are to be fully completed at 90 days and the Permanency Status is re-rated



What does this mean for you?

- Increased attention to Preferred Permanency outcomes of:
 - Adoption
 - Reunification
 - Permanent Custody and Guardianship

What does this mean for you?

- It may mean another look at the parents whose rights are terminated
- It may mean another look at kinship who were previously dismissed
- It may mean looking at a person the child identified with i.e. janitor, coach, teacher



Where are we now in Utah

- We have completed 60 PRTs
- Our first PRTs started in September 2010 with 10 cases. 3 of these have now been adopted.
- Since November 2011 we have completed 50 more. Several of these have closed.

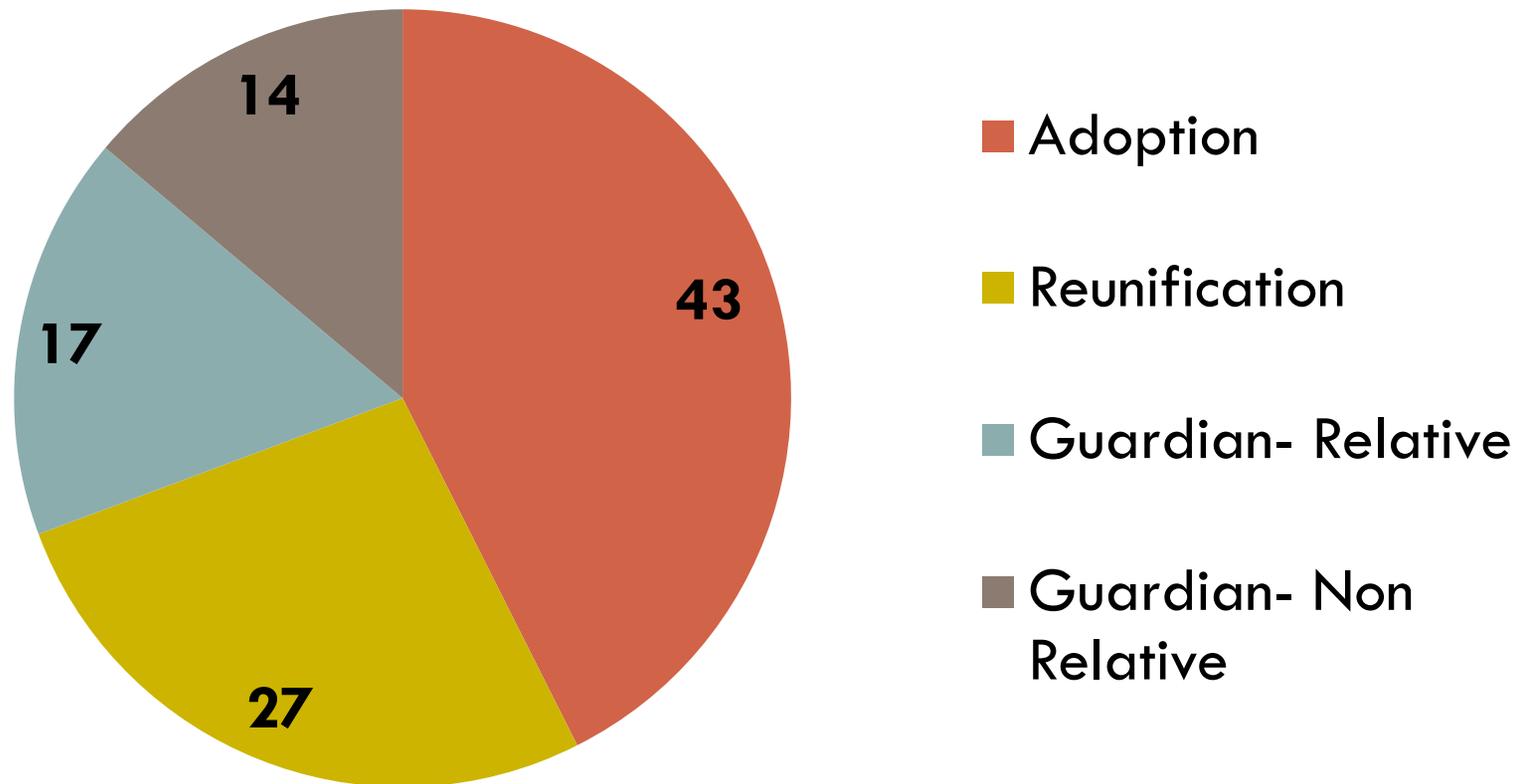


Georgia PRTs

Two years after initiating the first PRTs:

- 1506 out of 3631 (41.5%) have achieved permanency
- 18 Months in care prior to the PRT
- Average time to Permanency after the PRT 9 Months

Georgia Permanency Outcomes PRTs





Thanks!

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