

The Division of Children and Family Services

Tiffany Wright, Director



DCFS Practice Model: At One Table

Vision

VISION

Every child has a safe and stable family every day.

DCFS PRIORITIES

The Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has collaboratively designed a practice framework to guide the top three priorities of the agency.

1. Safely stabilize and preserve families; and if that is not possible . . .
2. Safely care for children and quickly reunify children to their families of origin. If children must be removed from the home, relative and fictive kin caregivers will be considered immediately and throughout the entire engagement with the family; and if reunification is not possible . . .
3. Safely support child permanency, well-being, and development of culturally safe, lifelong relationships.

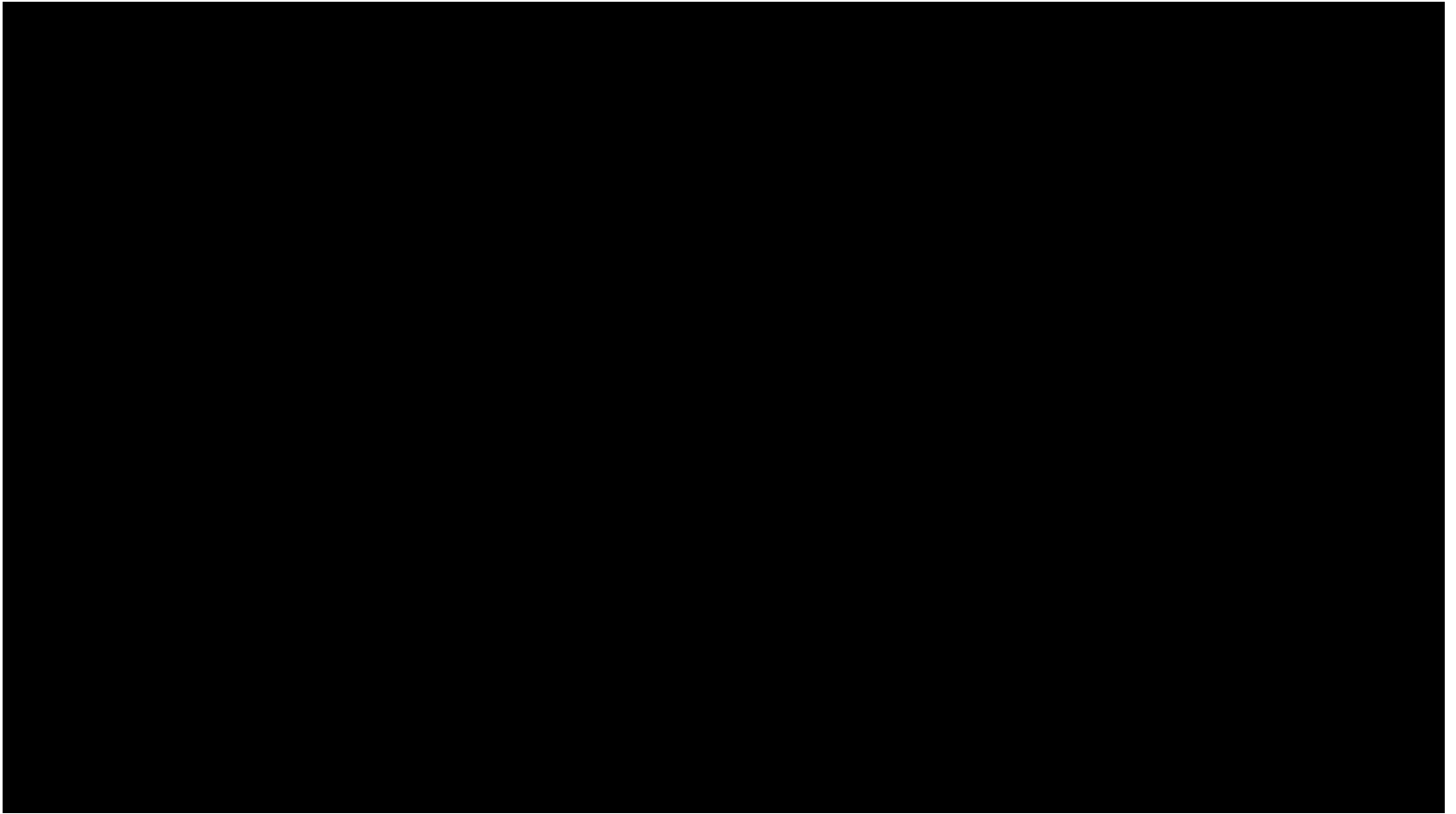
At One Table

Values

- **Value 1:** Relationships with children, youth, and families are the foundation
- **Value 2:** Collaborative partnerships with resource families
- **Value 3:** Helping children and youth achieve their full potential and develop lifelong relationships
- **Value 4:** Shared responsibility with community partners
- **Value 5:** A strong working relationship with the legal system
- **Value 6:** A workplace culture characterized by reflection, appreciation, and ongoing learning

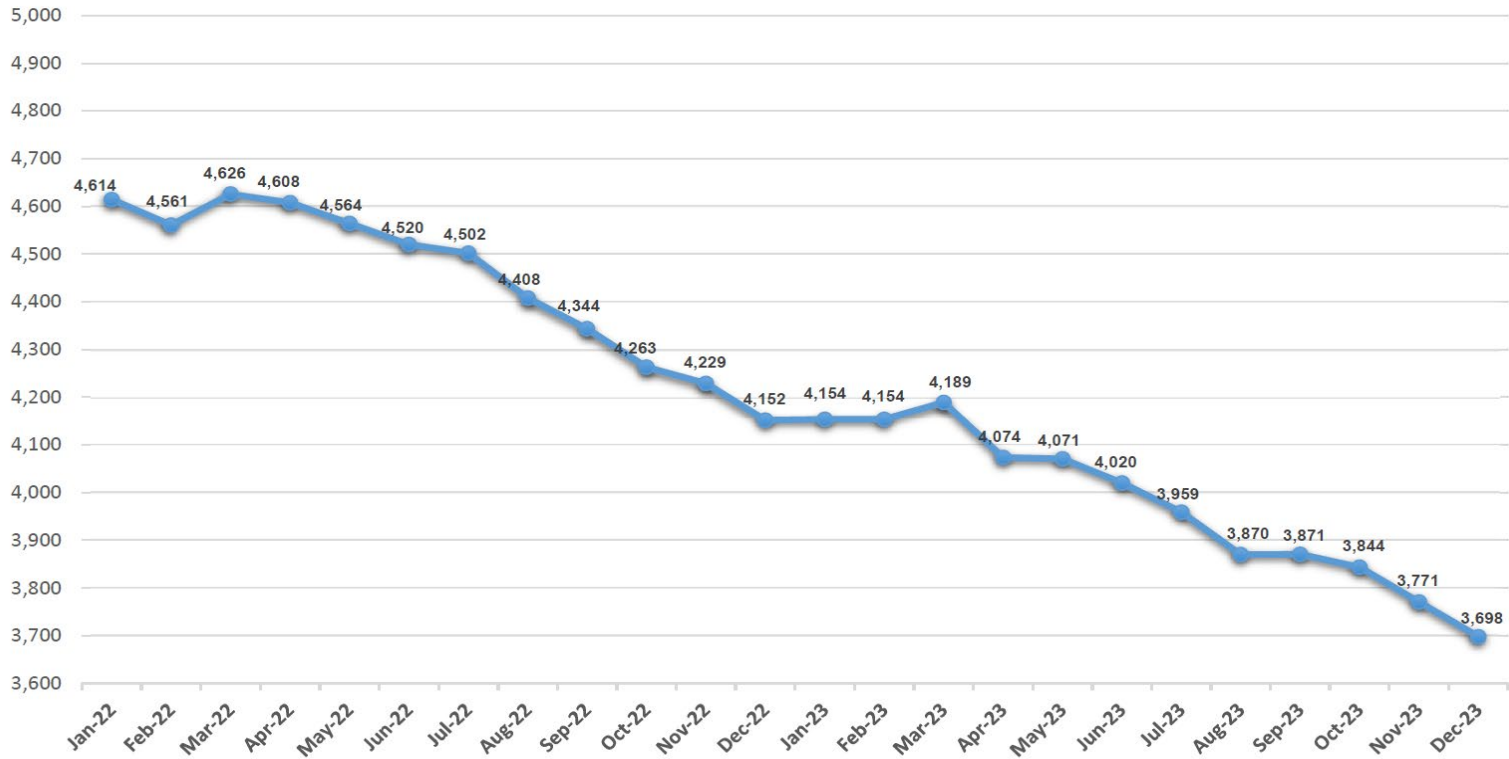


Permanency



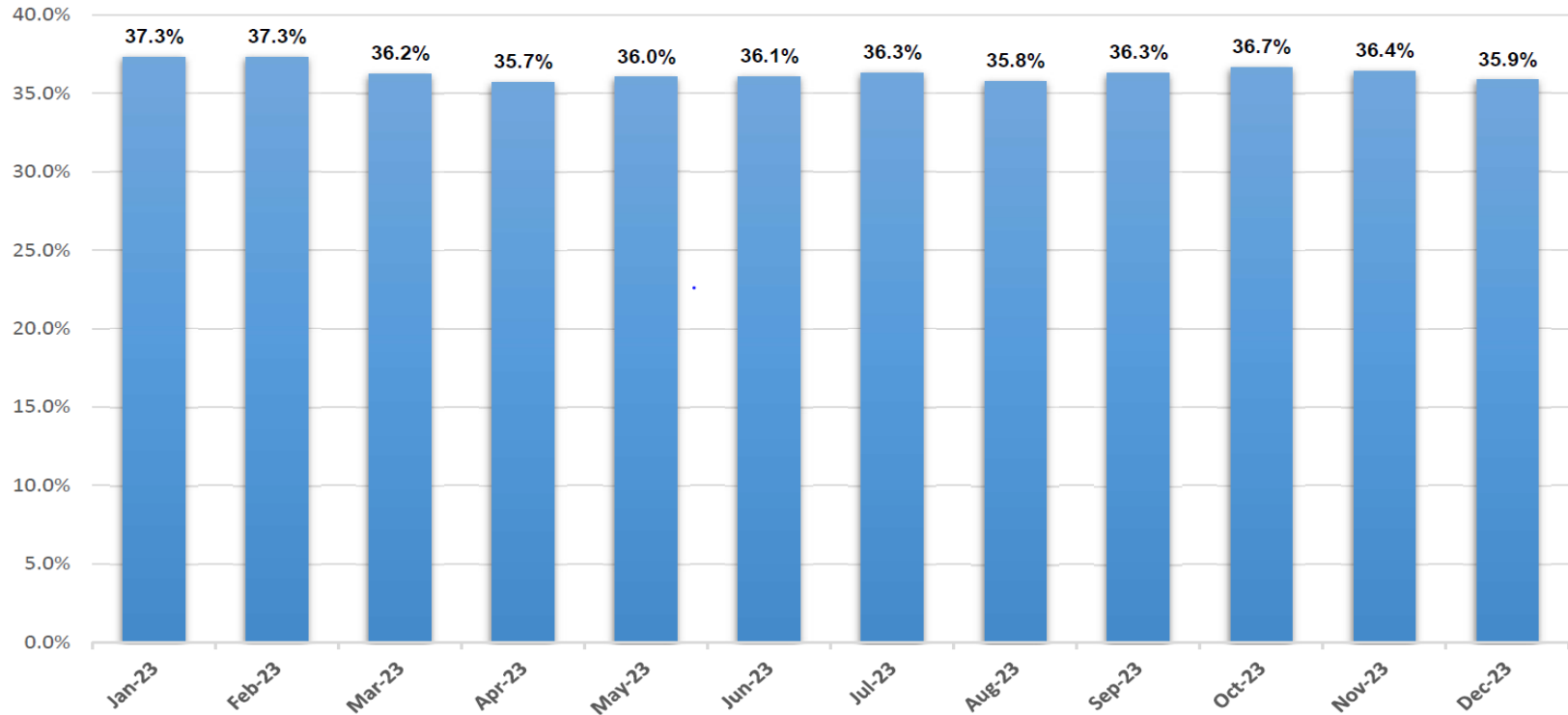
Key Data Points

Children in Foster Care, Statewide



Key Data Points

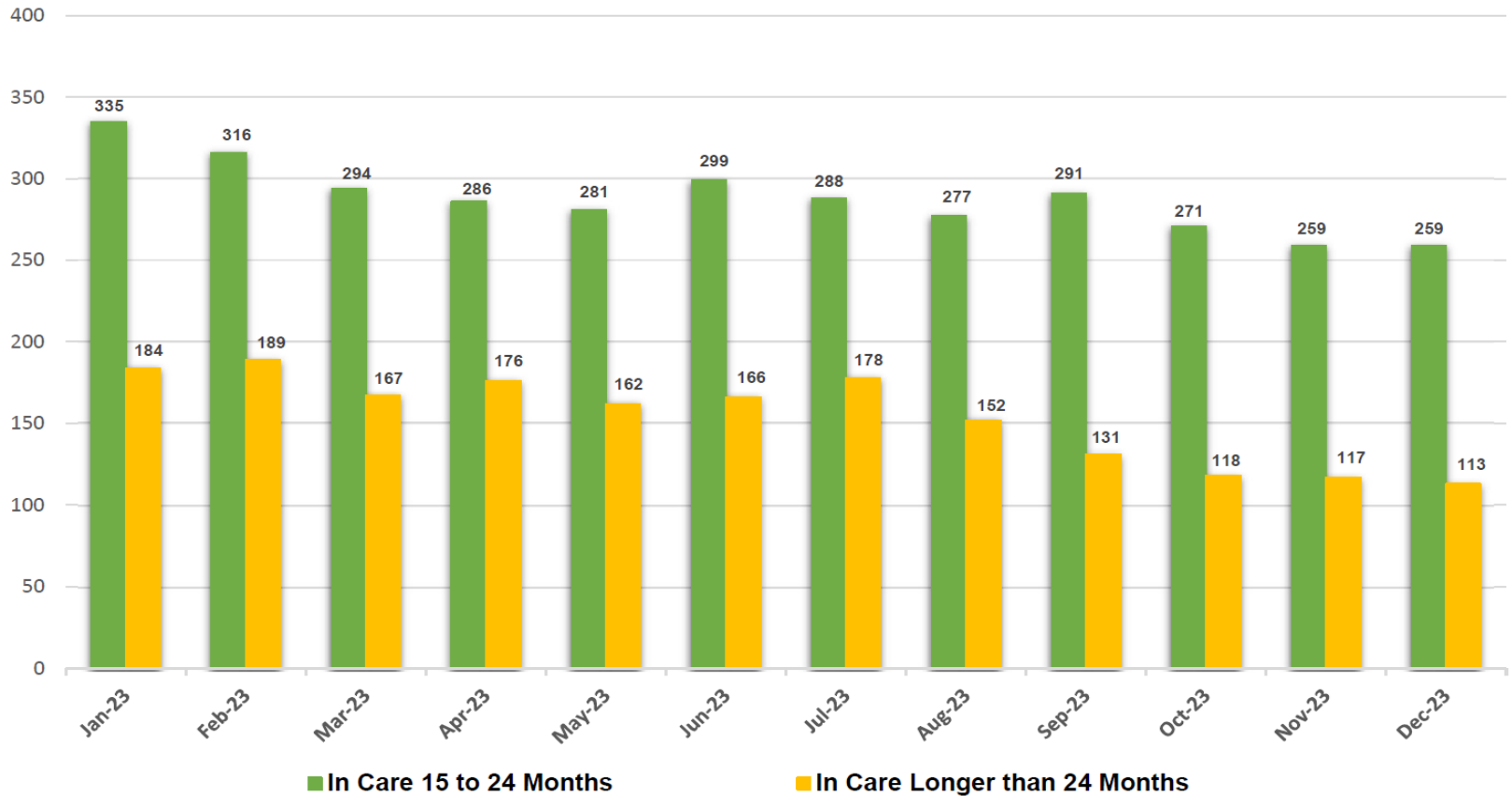
Children Entering Care whose First Placement is with Relative, Statewide



*The chart above represents the percentage of entries into care for the 12-month period concluding at the end of each month in which the child's first placement was with a relative or fictive kin.

Key Data Points

Children with a Goal of Reunification, Statewide



Key Priorities

- **Prevention: strengthen families and ensure children can safely remain with their families and in their communities**
 - Community Schools
 - Intensive In-Home Services
- **Strengthen DCFS Workforce**
 - Stable workforce leads to more effective and efficient service provision and improved outcomes
- **Continued Implementation of Safety Organized Practice (SOP) and Structured Decision Making (SDM).**
 - Evidence-based model to improve accuracy and consistency of safety and risk assessments and determine when to serve families through a DCFS case.
- **ARfocus**
 - New case management system

Key Priorities: Prevention

Intensive In-Home Services:

- Intensive in-home services work with caregivers and youth ages 0-17
- Sessions are conducted in the family home three times per week for a minimum of 6 months.
- Families have access to 24/7 on-call crisis support.
- Intensive in-home services are for families that have difficulty with things such as serious family conflicts, problems with family support systems, mental health issues, youth with serious behavioral issues, and families impacted by trauma.
- Family Intervention Specialists work with families and assist them with obtaining access to basic needs, counseling and/or medication management, developing family support networks, assistance with educational advocacy, and provide parent education.

Providers:

- Youth Villages
 - Intercept Model
- Saint Francis Ministries and Youth Advocate Program
 - Family Treatment Model

As of 12/31/23 all three (3) providers have served a total of 3,124 families.

DCFS Workforce



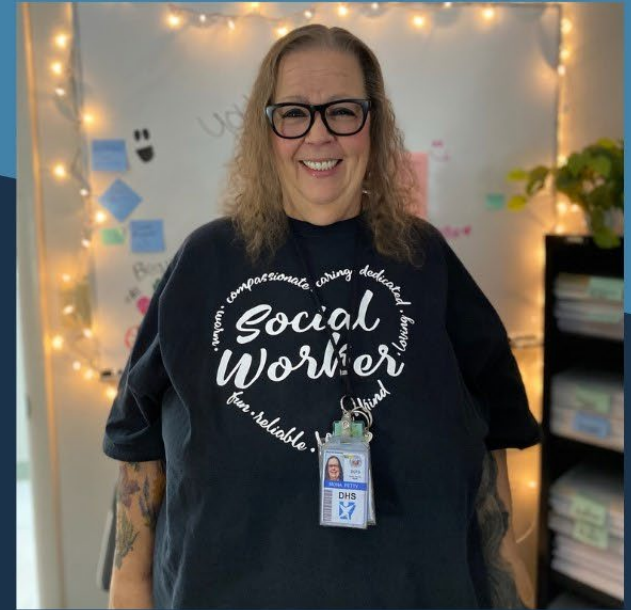
EVERY DAY CHAMPION

MONA PETTY

"Mona is by far the best caseworker we've experienced. She looks at the children as if they are her own, and she puts their best interests above everything. She goes above and beyond the call of duty for the children and families that she serves. Boone County is very lucky to have a caseworker of her caliber."

*David and Diane
Colby*

Foster Parents



EVERY DAY CHAMPION

GWENDOLYN HAWKINS

She cares so much about waiting kids and always goes above and beyond. She is gold and precious! Last week, she especially went above and beyond to ensure kids were transported to Project Zero's Candyland Christmas 2022. She organized and transported over 30 waiting kids to and from the event and made it happen whether they were kids from her community or not.

Anna Dietrich

Project Zero Logistics Coordinator

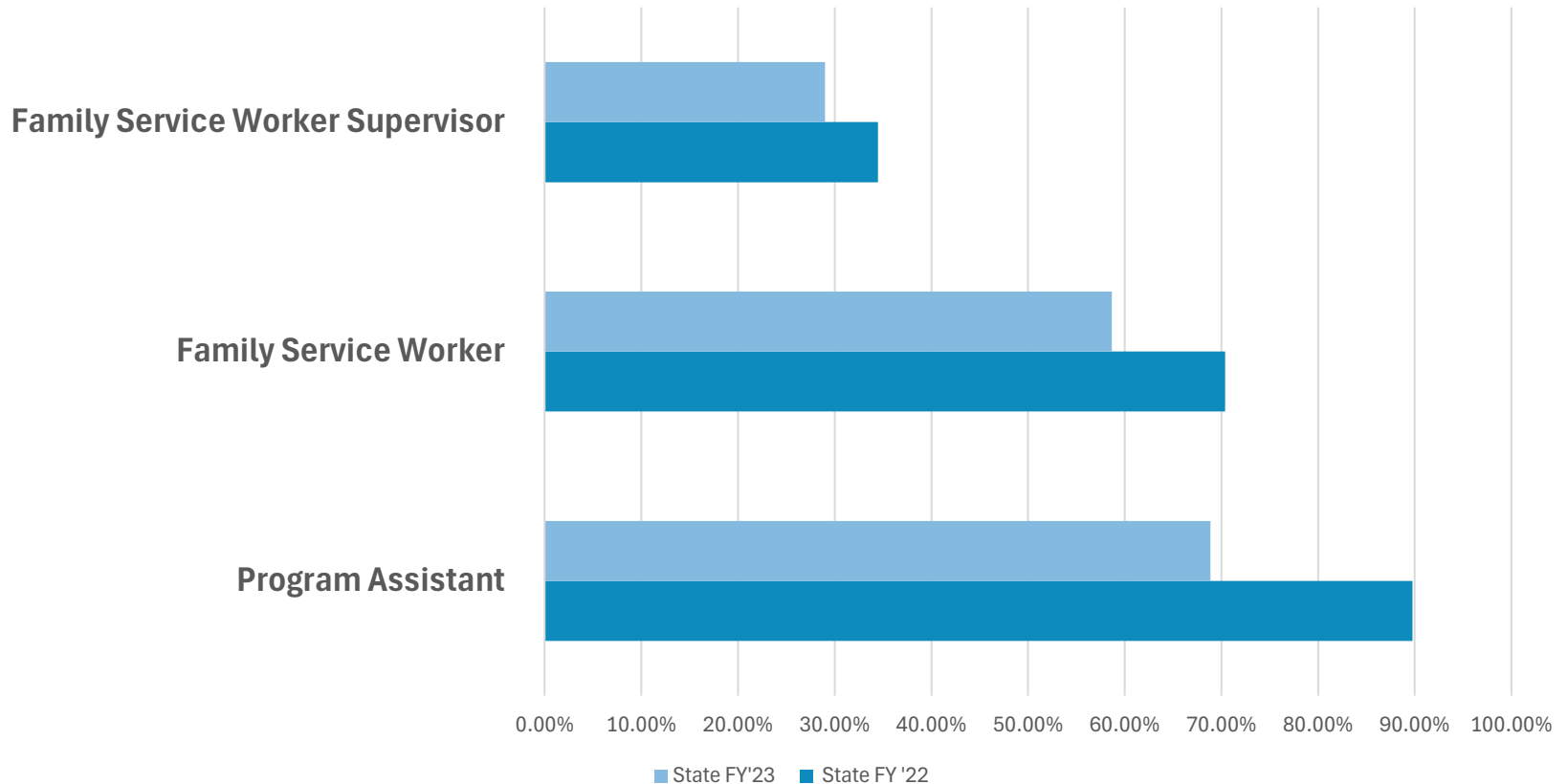


DCFS Workforce: Current Vacancies

As of 1/10/24



DCFS Workforce: Turnover SFY '22 and SFY '23



DCFS Workforce

- **Strengthening the Workforce**
 - **Program Assistants**
 - Allowed Program Assistants to substitute experience (childcare, DCFS, DHS, schools, etc.) to apply for Family Service Worker positions with Director approval.
 - Established partnership with NWACC to onboard students in an extra help position to support DCFS learn the job and then potentially hire them to work for DCFS after they have an associate degree.
 - **Family Service Workers**
 - Career Ladder for Family Service Workers
 - Family Service Workers Promotions to Specialists
 - On-Call Stand By Pay
 - **Family Service Worker Supervisors**
 - November 2023: Supervisors Overtime Pay
 - On-Call Stand By Pay
 - **All Staff**
 - Remote work for eligible employees
 - Exploring CE-CERT Training in partnership with UAMS (Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma)

Key Priority: Safety Organized Practice



Solution-focused inquiry



Strategies for meaningful child participation



Consistent case consultation framework



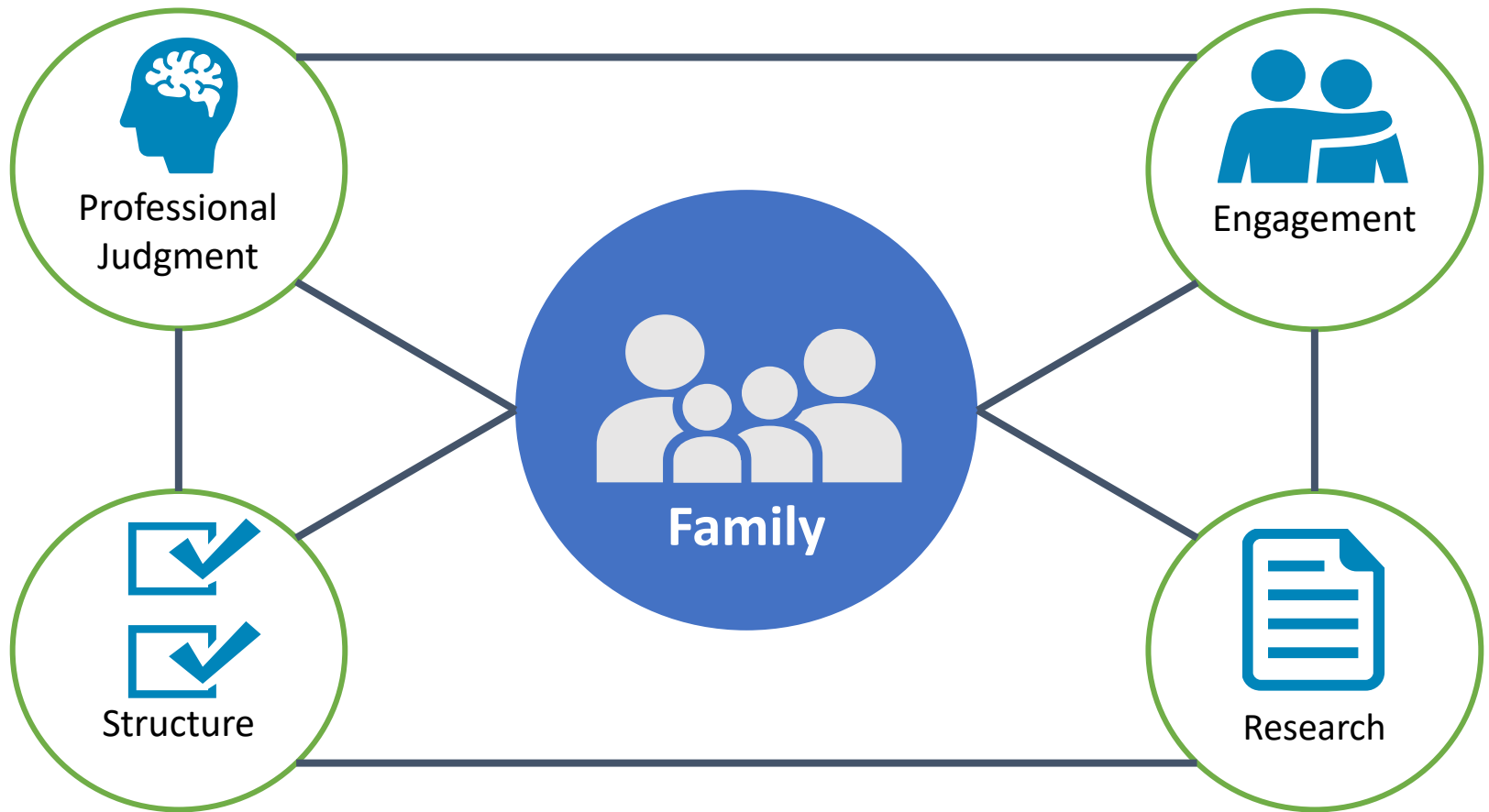
Building support networks and holding collaborative network meetings



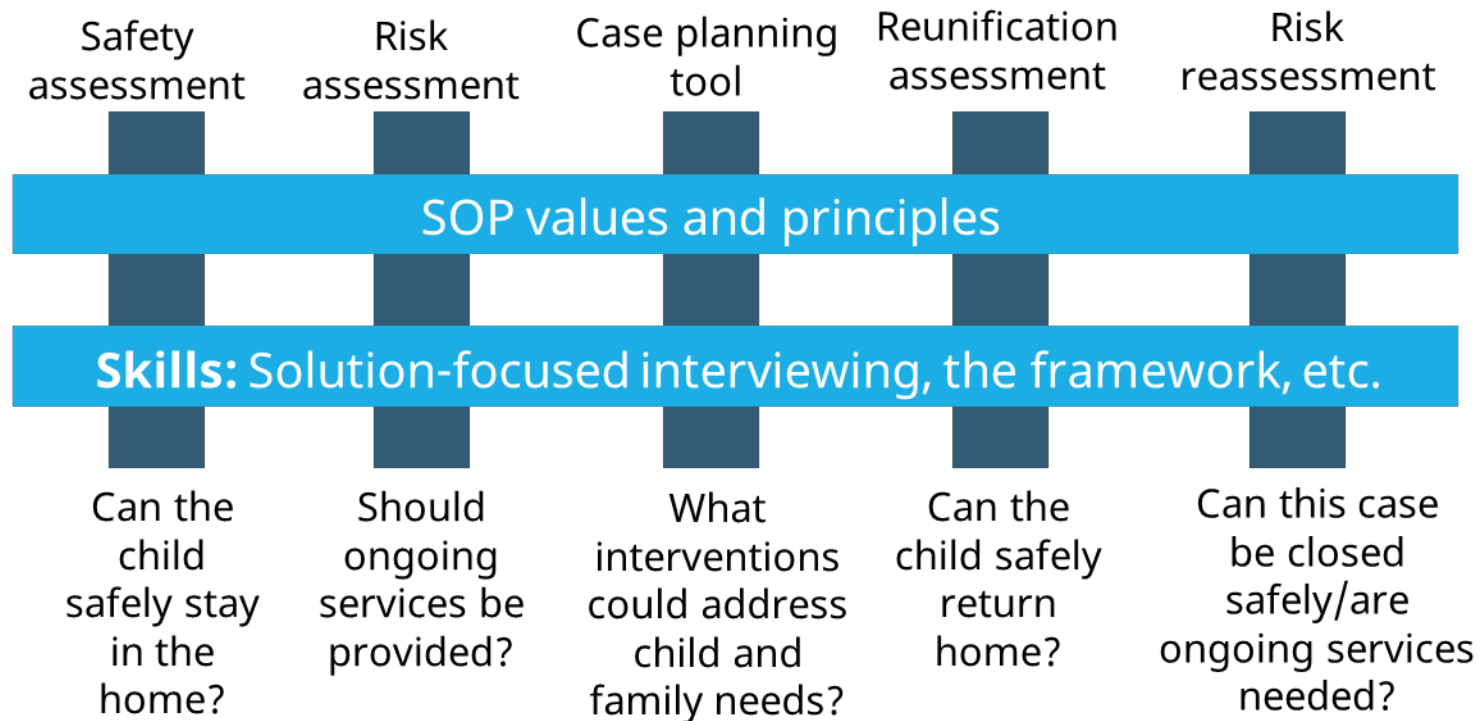
Collaborative safety and family case planning practices



Structured Decision Making



How Structured Decision-Making and Safety Organized Practice Work Together?



Key Priorities: ARfocus

- Implemented:
 - Mandated Reporter Portal (MRP) went live September 6, 2022
 - Received 34,448 reports
 - Intake module went live May 30, 2023
- Next Steps:
 - Phase 1
 - Intake to ARfocus, Investigations, Person/Clients, Providers
 - Testing: begin April 2024
 - Phase 2
 - Case Management, Financials, IV-E Eligibility, Mobile, Reports, Interfaces
 - Testing: December 2024
- Full System Implementation go live is set for **Summer 2025**

Additional DCFS Priorities



Additional Priorities

- **Foster Care Executive Order**
 - Implementing of “Connecting AR Families,” a National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC).
 - Decreases training hours from 27 to 14.
 - DCFS is currently working to decrease the continued education hours from 15 to 6.
 - Assessing relative foster home standards
 - Decreasing the length of time from TPR to adoption
 - Continuing to educate stakeholders about Safety Organized Practice and Structured Decision Making.
 - Expanding Private Licensed Placement Agencies
 - Establishing Warm Lines for foster parents
 - Transparency in data
 - County level data is now on the DCFS website
- **Human Trafficking Executive Order**
 - Implementing an evidence-based screening tool to identify human trafficking victims
 - Updating training and educational materials
 - Revising data, information sharing, and state protocols to better serve victims

Every Child Arkansas

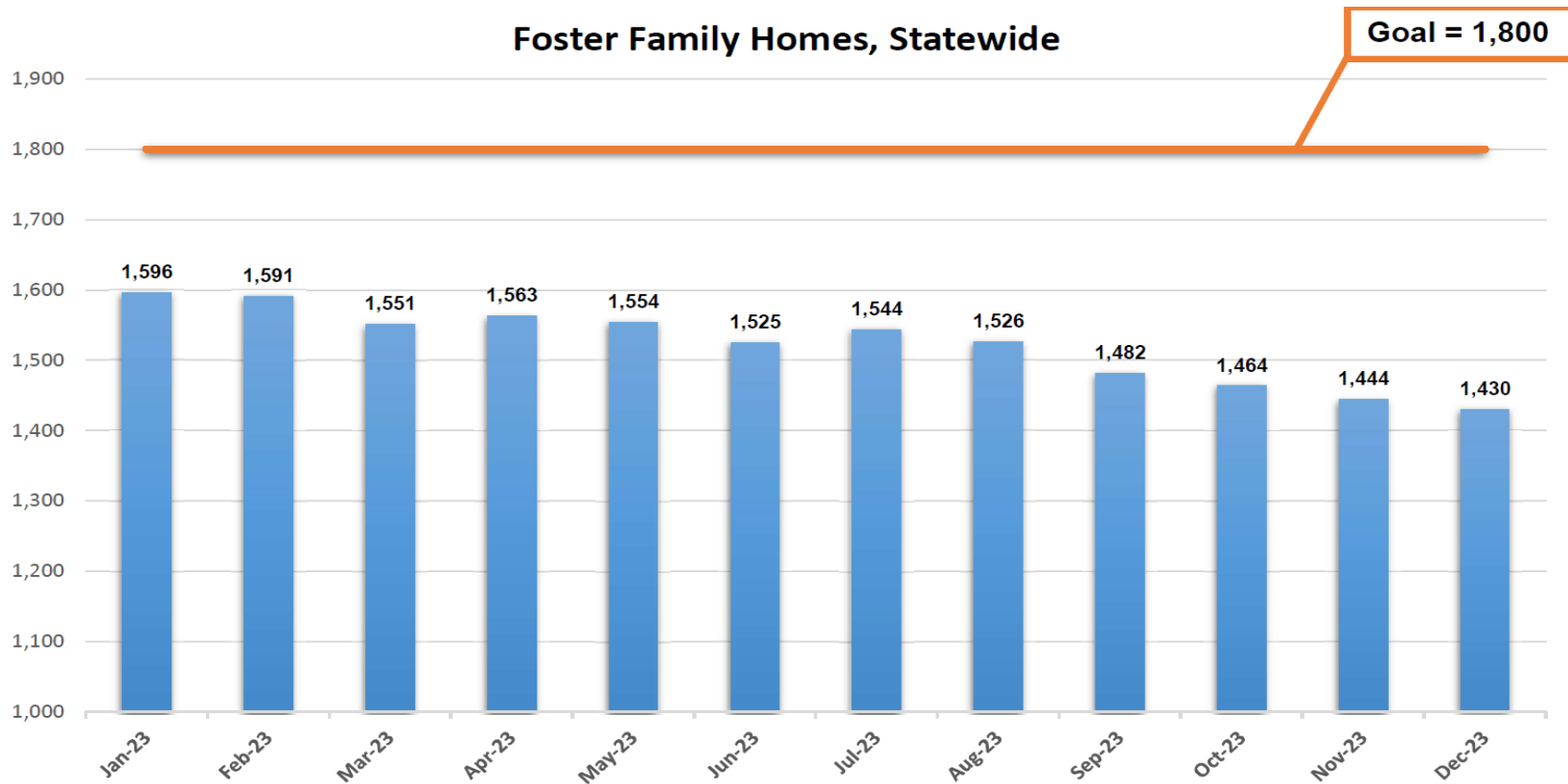
Established five (5) working groups in October 2023 to discuss and identify the most critical areas of focus related to resource parent recruitment and retention.

Workgroups:

- Fictive Kin
- In County Placements
- Resource Family Experience Assessment
- Resource Family Frequently Asked Questions
- Resource Family Support and Information



Every Child Arkansas



*The chart above represents the number of approved foster homes at the end of each month.



Every Child Arkansas



Questions?



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