Purpose of CPS

To PROVIDE in each county:

– Effective and quick **investigation** of reports of child abuse or neglect.

– **Protection** for such a child from further abuse or neglect.

– **Rehabilitative services** for such a child and the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian.
Physical Abuse

- Any non-accidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent or caregiver, which results in or threatens serious injury.
  - Often, parents who physically abuse their children do not intend to seriously injure them but get carried away by anger and frustration in their own lives.

- Includes injuries as result of a parent's failure to take appropriate action to prevent the injury.
Neglect

- Failure of a parent or guardian to provide a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education or supervision.

- Chronic problem often resulting not from poverty, but from lack of knowledge on the parents' part regarding proper care for children or household management.
Sexual Abuse

- Physical conduct with a child by an adult or older child in a position of power over the child for the sexual gratification of the adult or older child.

- Usually, child sexual abuse is not violent;

- The child knows the abuser.
What happens next?

- CPS will evaluate to determine disposition
- Focus is on **safety** of child
  - Screen Out
  - Information and Referral
  - Service Request
  - Investigation
What is next?

INVESTIGATION FINDINGS
- Substantiated
- Unsubstantiated
- Indicated
Investigation Findings

Findings unsubstantiated

– Services referred
– No action taken
Investigation Findings

Findings substantiated

– Service case - short in duration (6 months)

  (Service Referral Agreement or Informal Adjustment)

– In-Home CHINS (CHild In Need of Services)

– Out-of-home CHINS
CHINS cases

- Services to the child and family
- Judicial oversight
- Case planning
- Permanency planning teams, including all significant persons in the child’s life
- Focus on permanency for child and well-being of children and family
Current Practice

- Investigate to find facts
- Solely responsible for child safety
- We identify service needs for the family - prescriptive approach
- Lack consistent approach in engaging families and child welfare practice
- Risk assessment based on our interpretation
- Responsibility primarily on DCS for outcomes
- We create the team composition
- Do not manage to data – no identified outcomes
Tomorrow’s Practice

- Assessment, including family strengths
- Shared responsibility for child safety
- Family identifies service needs and participates in all decision making
- Consistent approach and philosophy in practice
- Functional assessment is comprehensive and input sought from multiple people
- Decisions through the lens of the long-term view
- Family creates the team composition
- Manage to data
Measuring Success

- Reduce substitute care
- Increase the use of relative care
- Increase placement in own community (zip codes)
- Reduce use of institutional and group care
- Reduce number of placement moves
Measuring Success

- Increase sibling placements
- Reduce length of stay
- Increase reunification and adoption rate
- Increase child and family visits
- Reduce incidence of repeat maltreatment