



DFCS Continuum of Learning

February 23, 2022





AGENDA

Welcome (10 min)

- Introduction
- Vision

Daniel Little, Wendy Kinnear, Damion Wright

Annual Report Launch (10 min)

Daniel Little

Supporting Connections with Children and Families (35 min)

- Presentation
- Q and A

Michelle Findley/Bob Beck

Family Seeing (35 min)

- Presentation
- Q and A

Kevin Campbell/Elizabeth Wendel

Wrap Up (5 min)

- Next Continuum of Learning on August 30, 2022
- Next Steps

Daniel Little

TOPIC 1

WELCOME

Vision - Goals

01

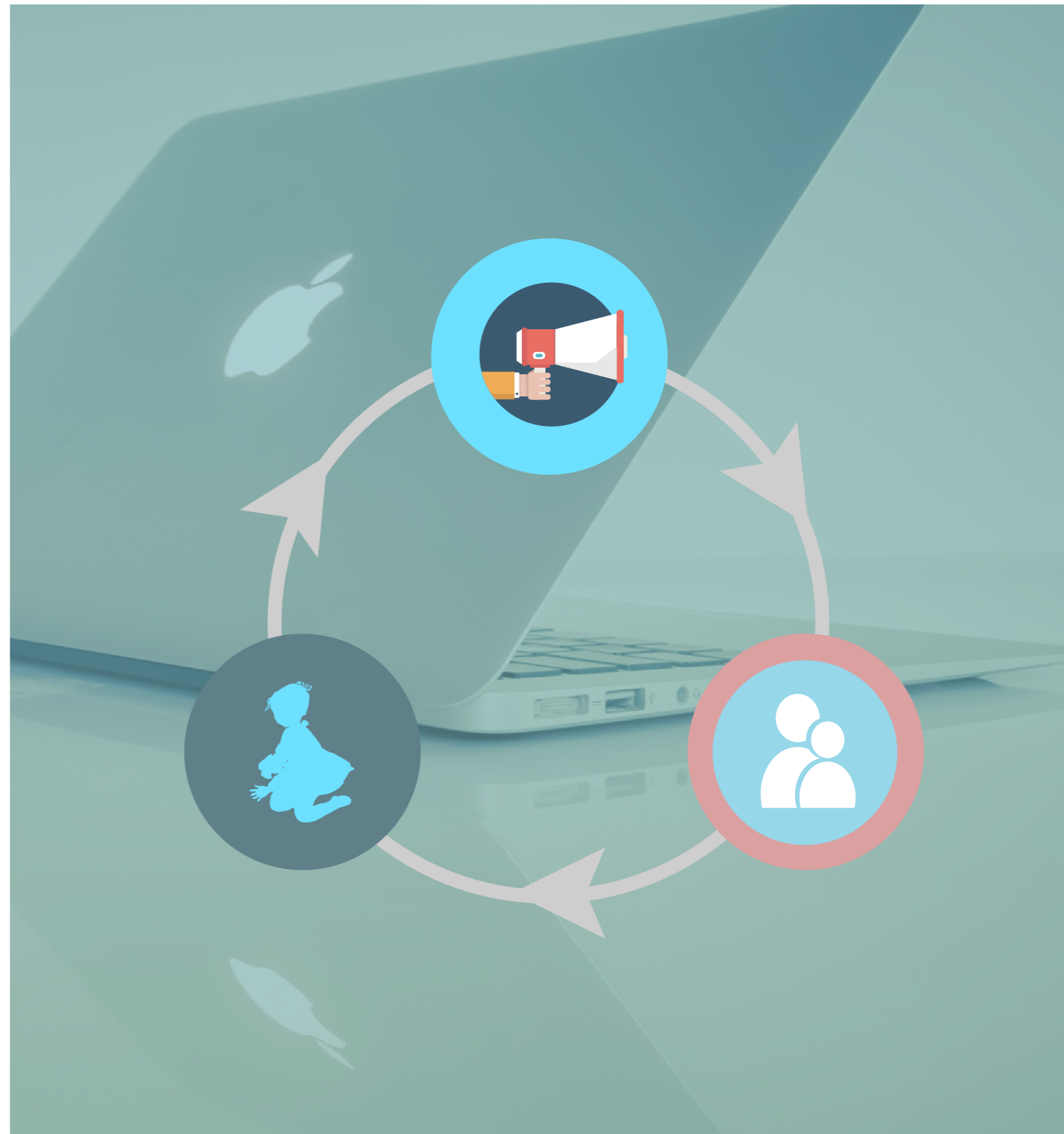
Disproportionality and Race Equity to guide every discussion at every opportunity

02

Improve communication across the department with special attention on identifying who will/could be impacted by a decision

03

Implementation of Family Seeing to align with the Child and Family Practice Model



TOPIC 2

Annual Report Launch

County of Santa Clara

2021

Annual Report

Department of Family & Children's Services



CONTENTS

1 Director's Message



2 Introduction



3 Vision, Mission, Values



4 Strategic Direction



5 Programs



6 2021 by the Numbers

TENTH

TOPIC 3

Supporting Connections with Children and Families

An Emergency Response Approach



Vision

Emergency Response supporting prevention work

- Intense family engagement (more time on referrals)
- Networks of support
- Creative solutions to enhance safety
- Use best practices to promote positive outcomes (Safety Organized Practice, Child Family Team meetings, Structured Decision Making, Continuous Quality Improvement)

Our Children and families and communities deserve more. . .

- Disproportionality, impact on child of color, outcome implications for children & youth not with family...

Belief in Healing Families & Communities

- Supportive Trainings

Paradigm Shift

Strengthen Families in Community

Children Remain with Family whenever Possible



What makes a
FAMILY strong

- Parent resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports
- Knowledge of child development
- Able to solve problems
- Children's healthy social and emotional developments



What makes a
COMMUNITY strong

- Community Associations
- Local institutions
- Personal connections
- Community based organizations
- Language and cultural considerations
- Basic needs being met

Best Practices into Action

Meet the MJ Family

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Hispanic/Caucasian
- Mom, Dad, Youth (not intact; unstable custody situation)
- Youth - 13 years old; autism diagnosis – non verbal, not toilet trained, uses communication device.
- Mom - bipolar diagnosis, extensive child welfare services history, extensive trauma, unstable housing
- Dad - medical issues, unemployed, unstable housing

ABOUT THE REFERRAL

- Hispanic/Caucasian Child taken to ER by father (who was caretaking at the time) due to challenges with caring for him.
- Allegation made that youth was hurt while with the father due to visible scratches and other injuries.
- Mother served father with court orders preventing contact with youth. Father left.
- Youth medicated and restrained to manage behaviors of self-harm, flight risk.

Building connections with our partners & enhancing network

INITIAL GOAL - Stabilize Youth for Discharge

- Planning meetings with partners
 - Hospital Team: nurses, doctors, psychiatrist
 - Regional Center & their partner agencies
 - California Department of Social Services Staff
 - Seneca Center
 - DFCS Staff
 - Education

THE HOW

- California Department of Social Services identified housing for youth and parent where supports are in place.
- Establish a plan to expand parent support and network.

WHERE ARE WE NOW

- Mom recognized her inability to care for the youth; youth re-hospitalized.
- Unable to support father moving into home as a result of court order barrier.
- Youth placed in protective custody.
- Continued support/advocacy with network and partners.
- Regional Center
- California Department of Social Services identified housing
- Continuity of staff to support youth comfort and well-being
- Education – communication device and school pending
- Court partners





STRENGTHS OF MJ FAMILY

- Youth obtaining services to support his mental, physical and emotional well-being.
- Mother and Father care deeply for youth and want his best interest supported.
- Network/Partners Teaming and communicating to support.
- Safety and well-being.
- Youth extremely connected to both parents and looks to them for care and love.
- Child Family Team meetings held to work toward identifying concerns and working to heal and find solutions.
- Child has stabilized and is using communication & daily living skills that his parents taught him.



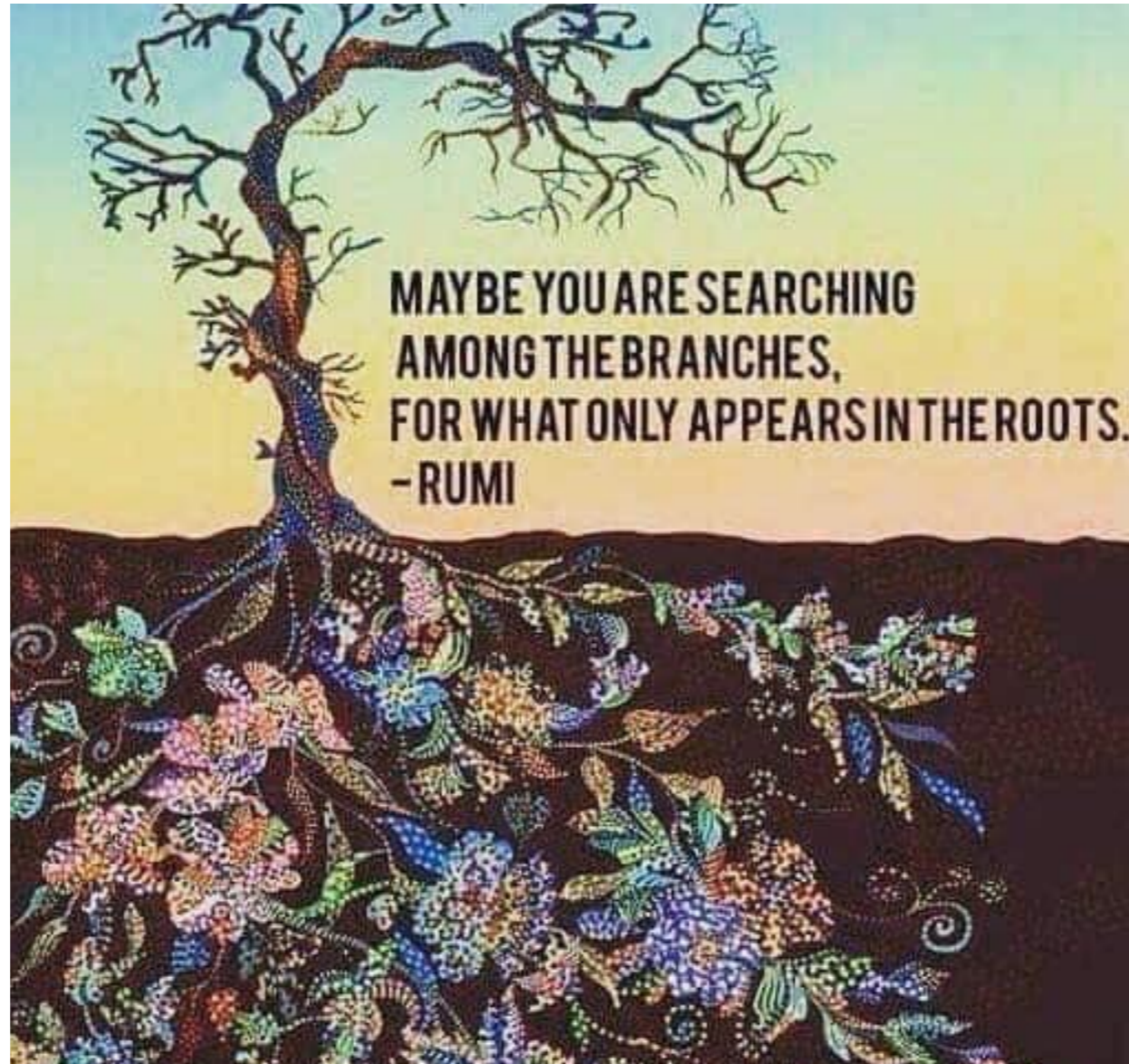
QUESTIONS

TOPIC 4

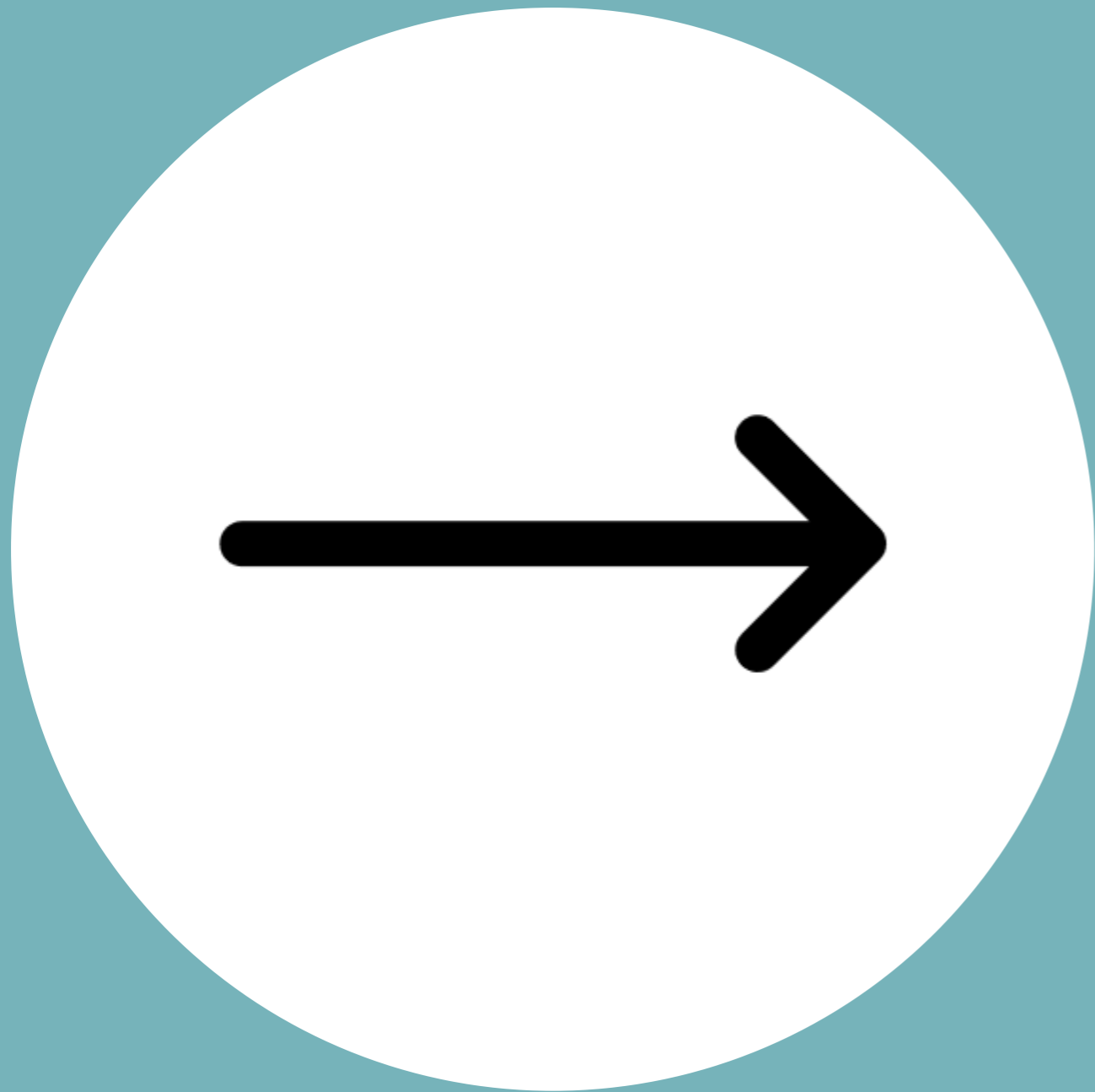
Family Seeing



Family Seeing and Santa Clara County



**MAYBE YOU ARE SEARCHING
AMONG THE BRANCHES,
FOR WHAT ONLY APPEARS IN THE ROOTS.
- RUMI**



From Family
Finding to
Family Seeing

New Evidence Requires a New System and Practices

Adults who lived in foster and residential care during childhood had a 40% chance of very poor health 10 years later. This rose to an 85% chance over the following two decades.

Those who grew up with a relative saw their chances of reporting very ill health range from 21% to 43% over a 30-year period.

Adults who grew up with parents only had a 13% chance of reporting very ill health after 10 years and a 21% chance at 20-30 years.

Research from King's and UCL found adults who spent time in care as children were 70% more likely to die prematurely than those who did not. Most of these deaths were from unnatural causes. *Rates of death increased for those in care after the year 2000.



From Family
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Family Seeing

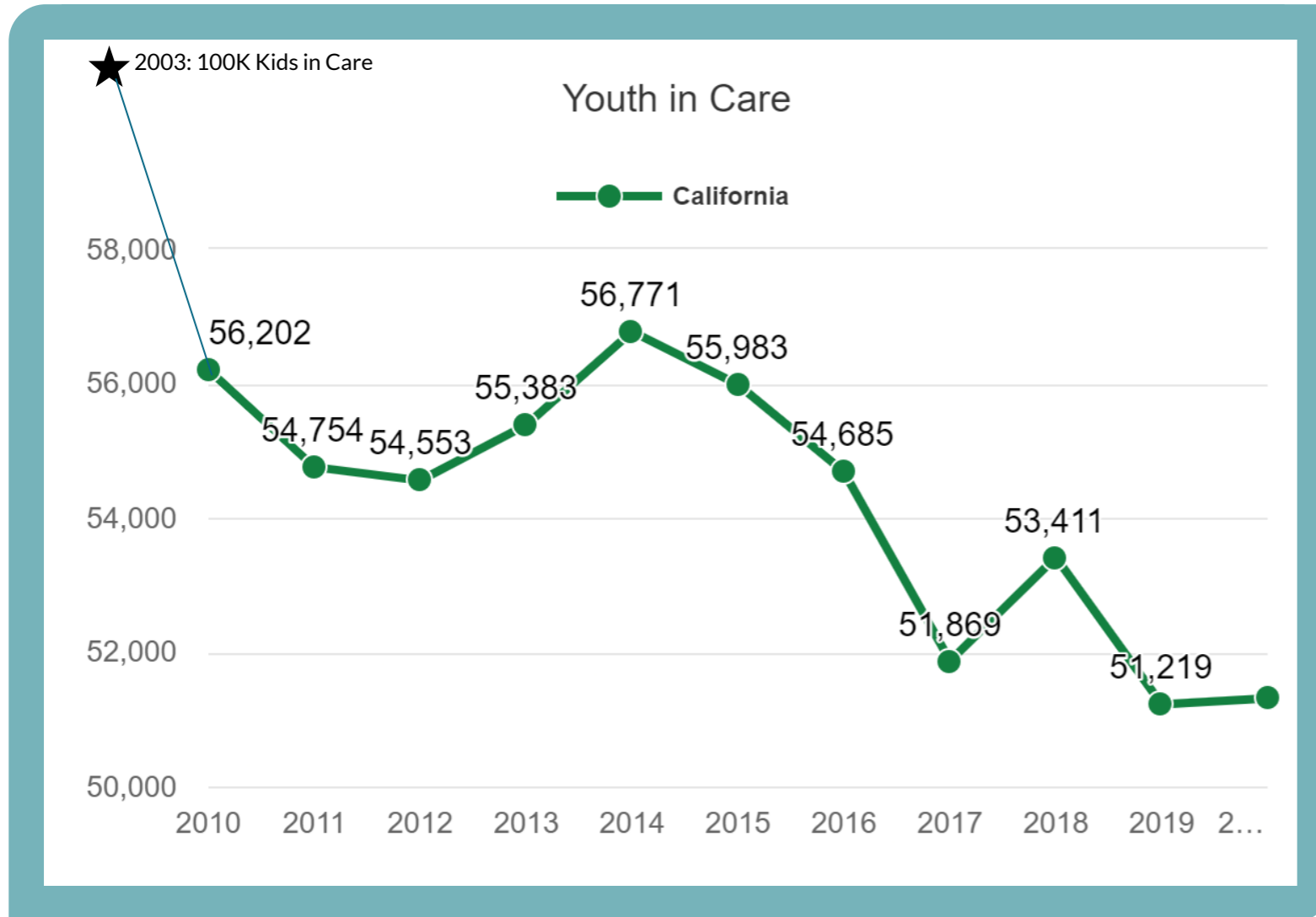
-Power

A large teal-colored circular graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the white background.

Forms of Power:

- Legal Power (may involve coercion but also rules and sanctions supporting or limiting other aspects of power, offering or restricting choices)
- Economic and Material Power (involves having the means to obtain valued possessions and services to control others' access to them and to pursue valued activities)
- Interpersonal Power (refers to power within close relationships, the power to look after/not look after or protect someone, to leave them, to give/withdraw/withhold affection)
- Biological/Embodied Power (operates through the possession of socially valued embodied attributes like physical attractiveness, fertility, embodied talents and abilities, physical health)
- Coercive Power or Power by Force (involves any use of violence, aggression or threats to frighten, intimidate, or ensure compliance)
- Social/Cultural Capital (a mix of valued qualifications, knowledge and connections which ease people's way through life and can be passed indirectly to the next generation in a kind of symbolic inheritance process)

Children in Care in California 2008 to 2019



- 2003: California had 100,000 kids in care.
- The decline is remarkable even compared to other states.
- Family separation has continued to decline despite the 2008 economic collapse and the opioid crisis .
- This is largely due to a concerted effort around Family Seeing – engagement of families as solution architects, versus problems to solve.



Examples

LA County: Upfront Family Finding

- 10 DCFS offices with children who were subject of new detention hearing for overinvolved cases
- Percentage of children whose first placement was kinship (non-offending parent relative or non-related extended family): 83%
- Excluding non-offending parents, relative placement was 61%.

Manitoba Metis Connect: Until the Last Child

- One team of 5 practitioners and 1 supervisor over the course of a year worked with just under 200 children
- 76% of those children found permanency and love through family and natural support networks
- An expanded definition of permanency

North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

- 2168 children and families have participated in Family Seeing and Network Gathering
- Since 2018 inception, 29 children have come onto service (into care), 18 have moved into kinship arrangements immediately.

In Practice



Leadership



Implementation



Defragmentation

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QUESTIONS

Wrap Up

- Next Continuum of Learning on August 30, 2022
- Next Steps