



Corporation for Supportive Housing

Keeping Families Together:
An evaluation of implementation and outcomes
of a pilot supportive housing model for families involved
with the child welfare system



metis associates

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making a meaningful difference

Objectives of the Session



1. Learn about the collaboration among the organizations involved in KFT.
2. Understand the targeting and recruitment strategies used to select families.
3. Learn about the child welfare outcomes achieved by the KFT families.



Outline of the Presentation

- Pilot Overview
- Implementation
- Family Profile
- Outcomes
- Lessons Learned





Corporation for Supportive Housing

CSH brings people, skills and resources to help communities create permanent housing with supportive services to prevent and end homelessness.

- Provide guidance and expertise
- Make loans and grants
- Strengthen the supportive housing industry
- Reform public policy



Impetus and Goals of Keeping Families Together

- Keep children in vulnerable families safe.
- Prevent the need for child welfare removal and foster care placement.
- Keep vulnerable families together and reunite those that have been separated.



Pilot Elements

- Supportive Housing
- Systems Coordination
- Targeted Recruitment
- Capacity Building
- Process & Outcome Study



Supportive Housing

Provider Name	Units	Model	Location
CAMBA	2	Integrated	Brooklyn
LESC	10	Single-Site	Bronx
St. John's LLP	2	Single-Site	Bronx
The Lantern Group	6	Single-Site	Bronx
Palladia, Inc.	4	Single-Site	Bronx
Women-in-Need	5	Scattered-Site	Brooklyn



Interagency Collaboration

- NYC Department of Homeless Services
- NYC Housing Preservation and Development
- NYC Administration for Children's Services
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- NYC Human Resources Administration



Questions for Discussion

- How would agencies work together in your community?
- How would you identify and recruit families in your community?



Interagency Collaboration

- CSH as a convener of interagency meetings
- Knowledge and resource sharing
- Technical assistance – clinical consultation
- Goal of case conferencing

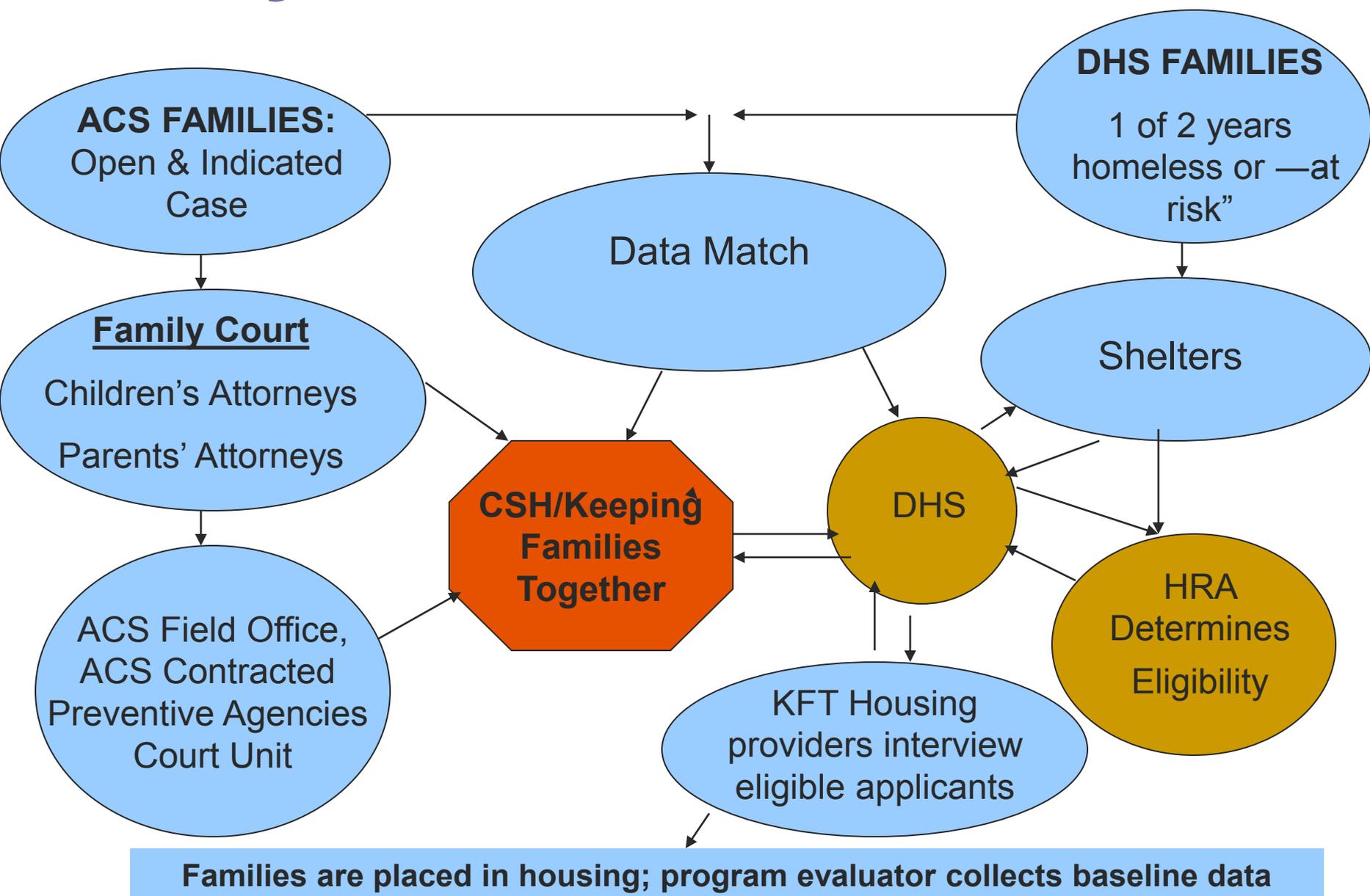


Targeted Recruitment

- Children at high-risk for foster care placement
- Homeless
- Mental illness and/or substance abuse issues



Family Identification Process



Family Identification and Recruitment Strategies

Five strategies:

- New data match
- Existing data match
- Centralized case finding
- Decentralized case finding and referral
- Provider-based recruitment



Capacity Building

- Clinical training and consultation for Keeping Families Together providers
- Training for case management staff on evidence based approaches
- One-on-one assistance with hardest-to-serve families



Program Evaluation

- Process Evaluation
- Outcome Study
- Data Sources



Family Profile

- 29 families—Primarily female-headed minority families with two children
 - Average age: 39 years old
 - Education: less than high school (69%)
- History of substance abuse (96%)
- Diagnosed with mental illness (54%)



Intergenerational Trauma History

Trauma as a Child	N*	% of total population
Parent drug or alcohol abuse	14	48.3%
Parental death or abandonment	9	31.0%
Victim of sexual abuse	8	27.6%
Victim of physical or verbal abuse or neglect	8	27.6%
In foster care	8	27.6%
Homeless	5	17.2%
Chronic housing instability	5	17.2%
Housed in informal setting	3	10.3%
Total	29	100%

*Includes multiple responses.



Intergenerational Trauma History

Trauma as an Adult	N*	% of total population
Sleep disruptions	26	89.7%
Depression	22	75.9%
Victim of domestic violence	21	72.4%
Anxiety symptoms	18	62.1%
Suicidal thoughts or actions	11	37.9%
Victim of rape	8	27.6%
Victim of assault	7	24.1%
Total	29	100%

*Includes multiple responses.



Substantial History of Shelter Use

Family and adult shelter stays before supportive housing:

- 17,451 total shelter days
- \$1,400,237 estimated cost

Profile of KFT Children

86 minor children:

- Moved into supportive housing: 43 (50%)
 - With open ACS cases: 37 (86%)
- In foster care placement: 25 (29%)
- In informal placement: 3 (3.5%)
- Parental rights terminated: 15 (17.5%)



Foster Care Duration and Cost

- 48 children had at least one foster care spell, averaging 1,244 days (3.4 years)
- 14 of these children had a second foster care spell, averaging 1,284 days (3.5 years)
- KFT families cumulatively used 75,931 foster care days from 1991-2010, at estimated cost of \$7,365,307 (\$97 per day)



Outcomes for Families:

Service use

- Case management services
- Other services from the housing provider
- Referred services from the community



Outcomes for Families:

Flexible grants

- Grants of \$1,000/per year for one-time expenses to promote positive family functioning
- Typical expenditures: clothing, household items, educational materials, games and toys



Outcomes for Families:

Residential stability



- 26 of 29 KFT families achieved residential stability—tenants remained housed from 10 to 31 months from move-in to end of pilot
- Two of the three families who chose to move out of the KFT pilot returned to shelter for 503 and 19 days, respectively



Outcomes for Families:

Child well-being

- 22 of the 37 ACS cases (61%) were closed
- 14 preventive services cases were closed
 - Average case duration was 22 months
 - Cases closed, on average, within 10 months of the family's move to supportive housing



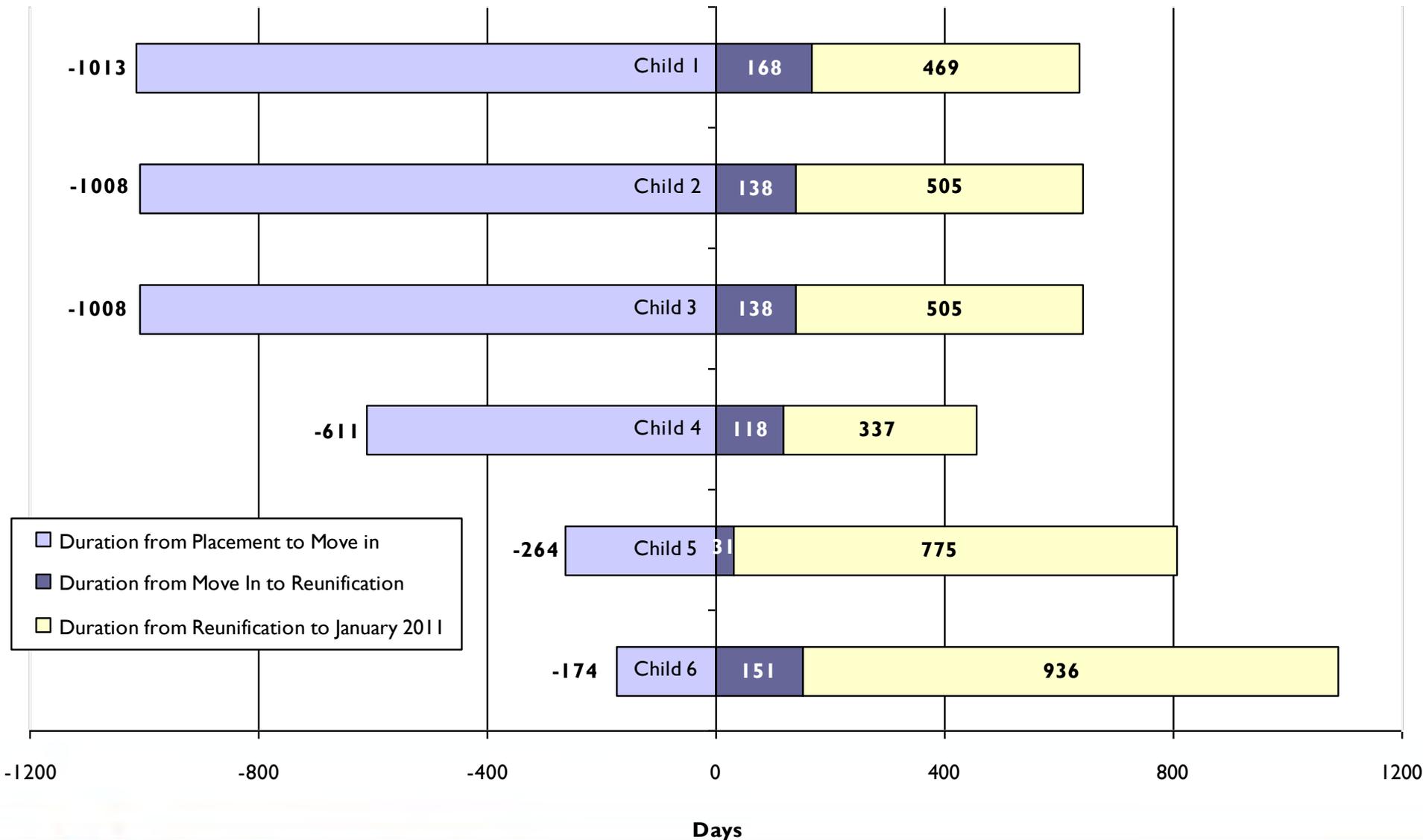
Outcomes for Families:

Child well-being

- All of the six children in foster care with a goal of reunification were returned to their families
- As of May 31, 2010, five of the six (83.3%) reunified children had been back with their families for more than 12 months
 - The sixth child was reunified achieved the 12-month benchmark in November 2010.



Duration of Formal Placements (Pre and Post KFT)



Outcomes for Families:

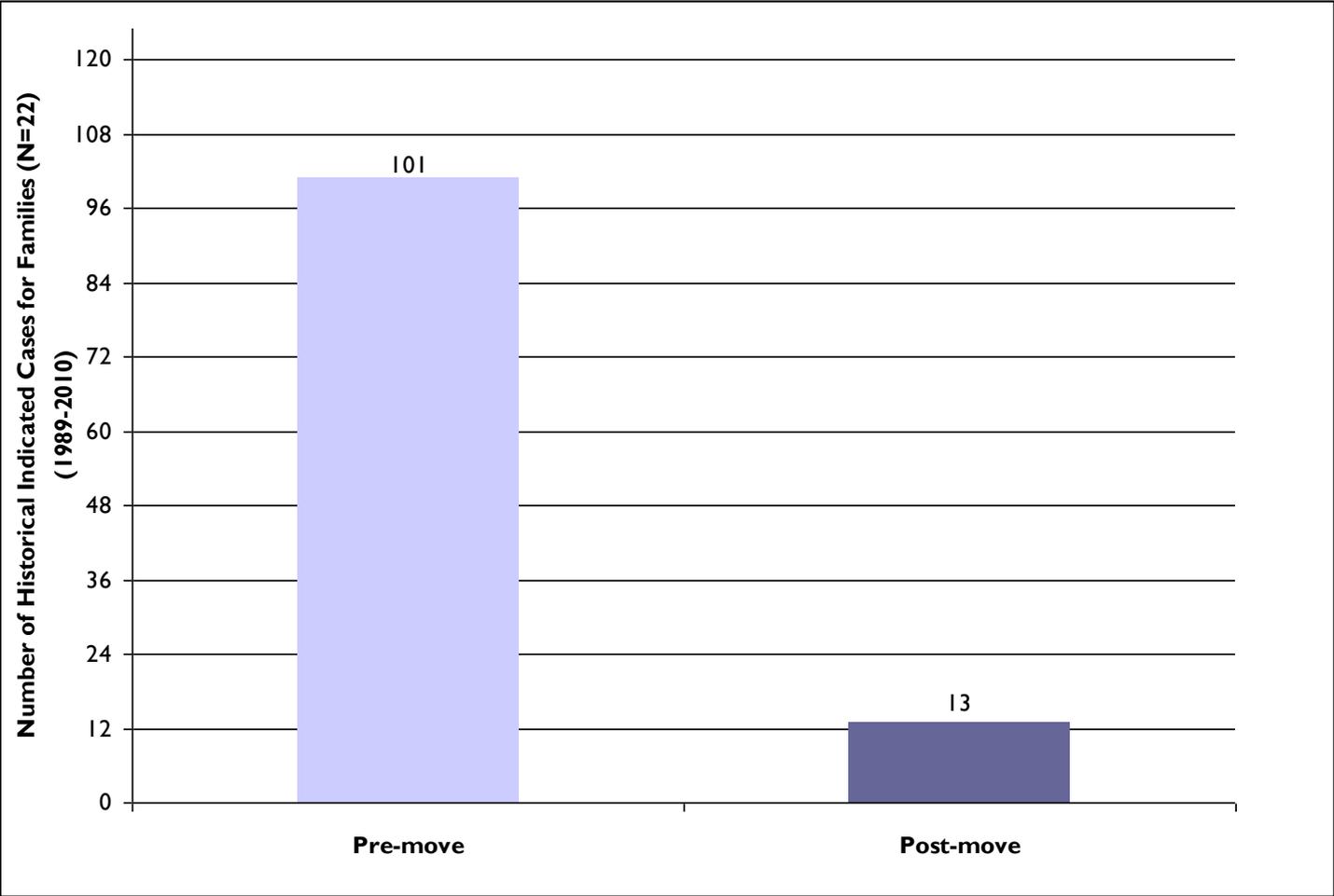
Child well-being



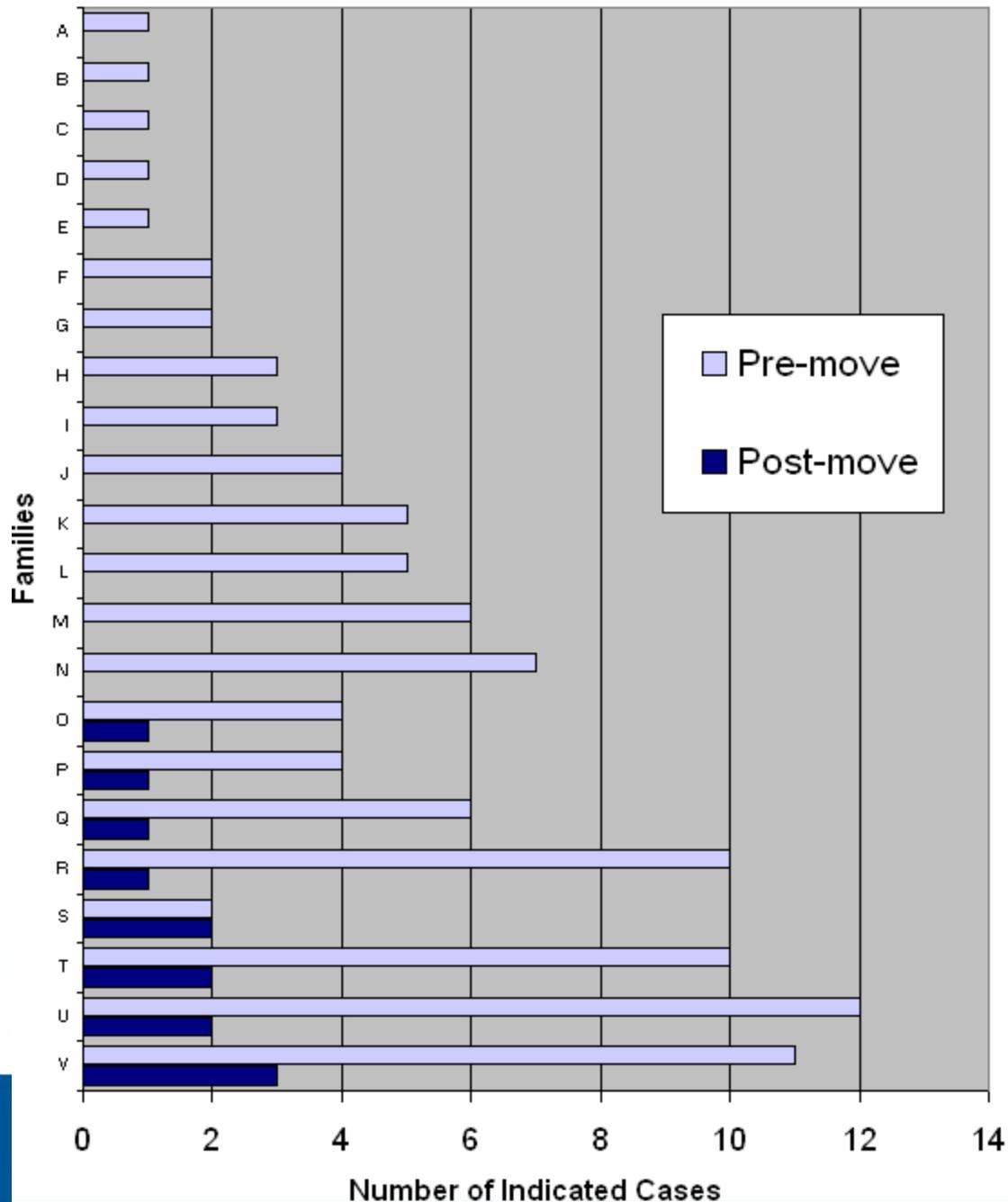
- Three children (ages 2-4) have no history of ACS involvement
- Two cases were reopened
- No children were removed from the home during the pilot
- The number of indicated abuse/neglect cases decreased from pre-pilot to the end of the pilot



Indicated Abuse/Neglect Cases Before and During KFT

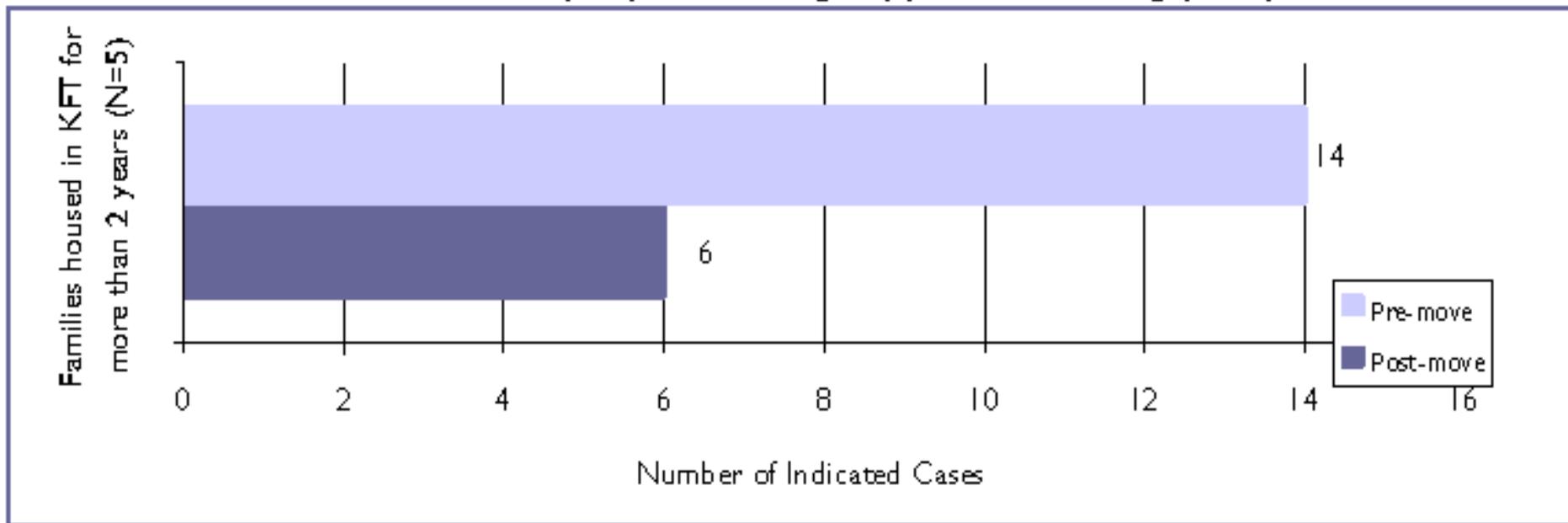


- After KFT: only 13 indicated abuse/neglect cases
- 14 of the 22 families had no subsequent indicated abuse/neglect cases



Indicated Abuse/Neglect Before and During KFT

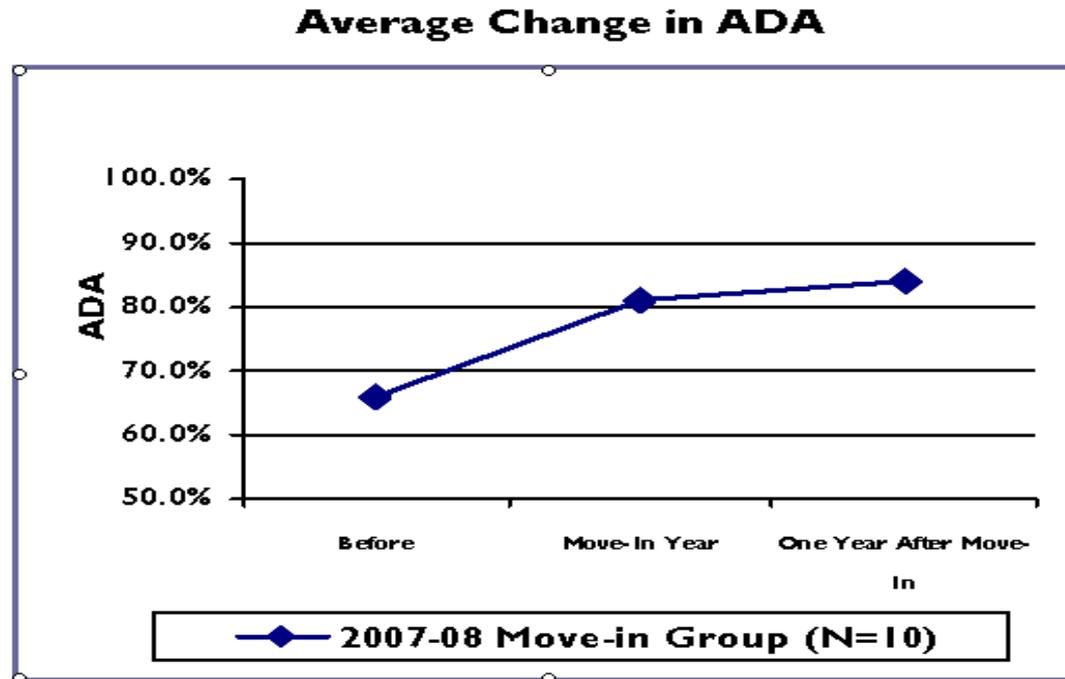
Number of Indicated Abuse/Neglect Cases From 3 Years Before Move in (Pre) and During Supportive Housing (Post)



Outcomes for Families:

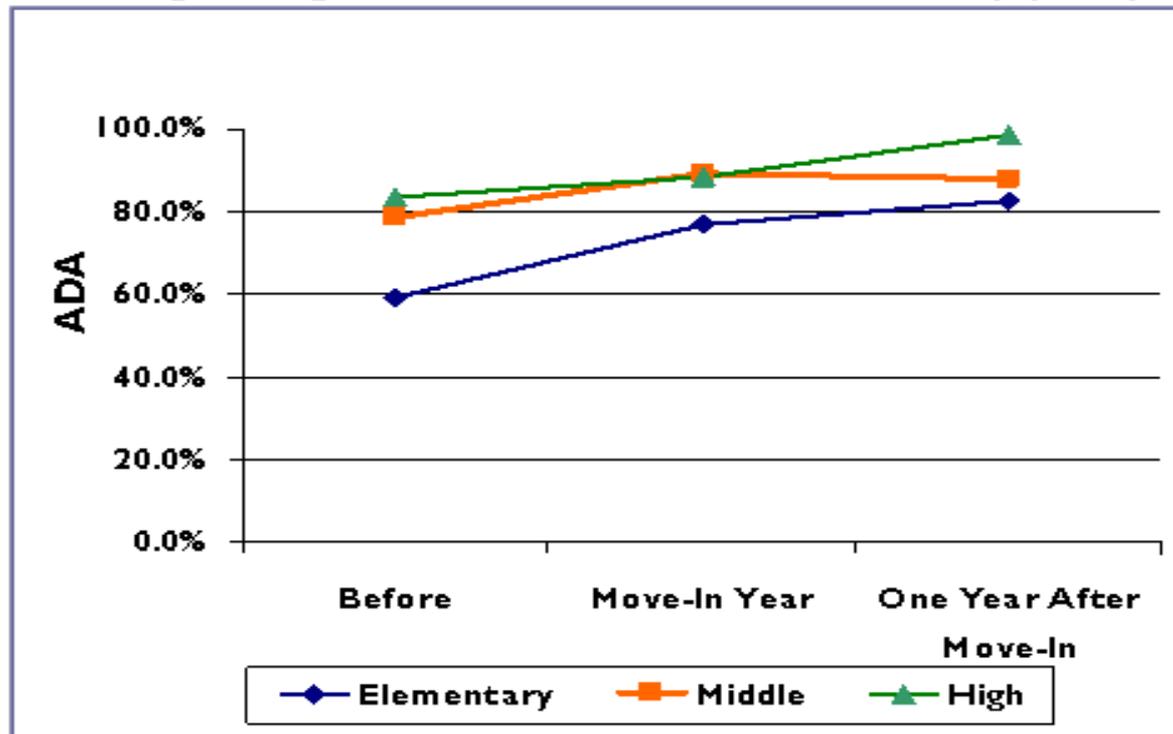
Children's school attendance

- School-age children showed a steady average increase in school attendance



Average Daily School Attendance for the 2007-08 Move-in Group

Average Change in ADA for the 2007-08 Move-In Group (N=10)



Lessons Learned/Summary

- Until they face a crisis, high-need families can be difficult to identify through disconnected social systems
- Identifying KFT-like families early and linking them to supportive housing can stabilize them, putting kids on the path to better outcomes
- Collaboration among agencies was a key element of KFT's success



Keeping Families Together 2011

- Interest in Keeping Families Together across the country
- Assessing new sites for pilot replication:
 - Michigan
 - Arizona
 - Minnesota
 - Colorado
- Replication is underway in New Jersey
- Working on Vulnerable Family Index in Chicago



Questions and Discussion





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