

KINSHIP PILOT PROGRAM EVALUATION

THE NEW FOSTER CARE

KINSHIP CONNECTIONS

The goal of the pilot program is to **1) increase the kinship licensure rate** and **2) reduce the average length of stay** for children in foster care. The pilot achieves this by providing supplemental support to the current child protection staff, adding two additional roles, a Family Engagement Specialist and a Kinship Parent Support, who identify potential kin caregivers and provide licensing and placement stabilization services.

Report Date
July 8, 2024

Reporting Period
June 1, 2022 to Nov. 30, 2023

Expenditure During Reporting Period
\$1,264,051¹

Agency Collaboration:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Orchards Children's Services
- A Second Chance
- The New Foster Care

Pilot Start Date:
June 1, 2022

Pilot End Date:
May 31, 2025

Total Budget:
\$3,300,000 of which \$1,500,000 in private revenue was provided by The New Foster Care

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



314 Days

Reduction of the average length of stay in foster care.



32%

Increase in the number of children placed in kinship foster homes.



\$783,744

Total savings due to reduction in duration of child's stay in foster care.

¹Year 1 State Expenditure: \$788,437; 06/01/2023 to 11/30/2023 Expenditure: \$475,614

OBJECTIVES AND KEY RESULTS OUTCOMES TO DATE: CHILDREN SERVED

303

Oakland

669

Wayne (SC)

of children removed from their homes due to abuse/neglect

143

Oakland

134

Wayne (SC)

of children served by Family Engagement Specialist
Goal: 201 / 290

100

Oakland

119

Wayne (SC)

children served by Kinship Parent Support Worker
Goal: 90 / 90

Notes: Referrals to the pilot program did not begin until 07/20/2022 in Wayne and 08/01/2022 in Oakland. In addition, during the first year of the pilot, DHHS Central Office collaborated with local offices and Orchards Children's Services to increase knowledge and awareness of the pilot program services. The agency prioritized outreach to DHHS staff during the reporting period. These efforts began to pay dividends, improving the consistency of referrals causing the results to trend upward.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase the % of Children Placed in Kinship Foster Homes

74%

Oakland

80%

Wayne (SC)

% of Wayne County (South Central Office) and Oakland County children, removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, who were placed in kinship foster homes
Goal: 65%

KEY RESULT 1:

94%

Oakland

93%

Wayne (SC)

% of pilot children removed who had at least three relatives identified as potential supports
Goal: 90%

KEY RESULT 2:

100%

Oakland

100%

Wayne (SC)

% of Relative Placement Safety Screens completed prior to or on the date of placement
Goal: 100%

At the time of the creation of the pilot, Oakland County and Wayne South Central had 42% and 48% kinship placement rates, respectively. As such, both service areas saw a statistically significant increase in the number of children placed in kinship foster homes during this reporting period,

a 32% increase for Oakland and a 32% increase for Wayne South Central.



OBJECTIVE 2: Reduce the Average Length of Stay in Foster Care for Pilot Children

314 Days Reduction

on average for children who achieved permanency
Reduction in days of the average length of stay in foster care for pilot children.

Goal: Reduce by 100 Days

KEY RESULT 1:

100% | 100%

Oakland | Wayne (SC)

% of pilot children who will be free from substantiated maltreatment while in kinship care.

Goal: 100%

KEY RESULT 2:

86% | 80%

Oakland | Wayne (SC)

% of pilot children who will maintain school and placement stability while in care.

Goal: 75%

KEY RESULT 3:

1x Per Month

Oakland & Wayne (SC)

of family meetings convened between the kinship caregiver, children, parent, and kinship support network by the Kinship Parent Support to facilitate support of the family and the permanency plan.

Goal: Varies

Cost Savings:

Savings Due to Reduction in Duration of Child's Stay in Foster Care

513 Days

Average Length of Stay for Children in Foster Care in Oakland and Wayne Counties

\$104

Cost Per Day for Child In Foster Care

Target Pilot Reduction of Time in Care

Goal | **100 Days**

Actual | **314 Days²**

Savings for Reduction of Time in Care

Goal | **\$10,400** Per child

Actual | **\$32,656³** Per child

\$783,744

Total Savings

² The pilot had the ambitious goal of reducing the average length of stay in foster care for a child by 100 days. The pilot thus far has dramatically outperformed this goal. For the 24 children who were reunified with their families during the reporting period, the average length of stay in foster care was 199 days, a reduction of 314 days from the 513 day combined average for Oakland and Wayne (SC) counties during the same reporting period. Once the pilot is complete, the average days to permanency will be recalculated and compared to similar cases in the counties served to ensure the outcomes obtained are solely due to the program's intervention and not an unknown extraneous factor.

³ The savings per child for a 314-day reduction was calculated as follows: $\$104 \times 314 = \$32,656$ per child.

Contact Person:

Shannon Laskey, LMSW | (248) 752-2101 | slaskey@thenewfostercare.org