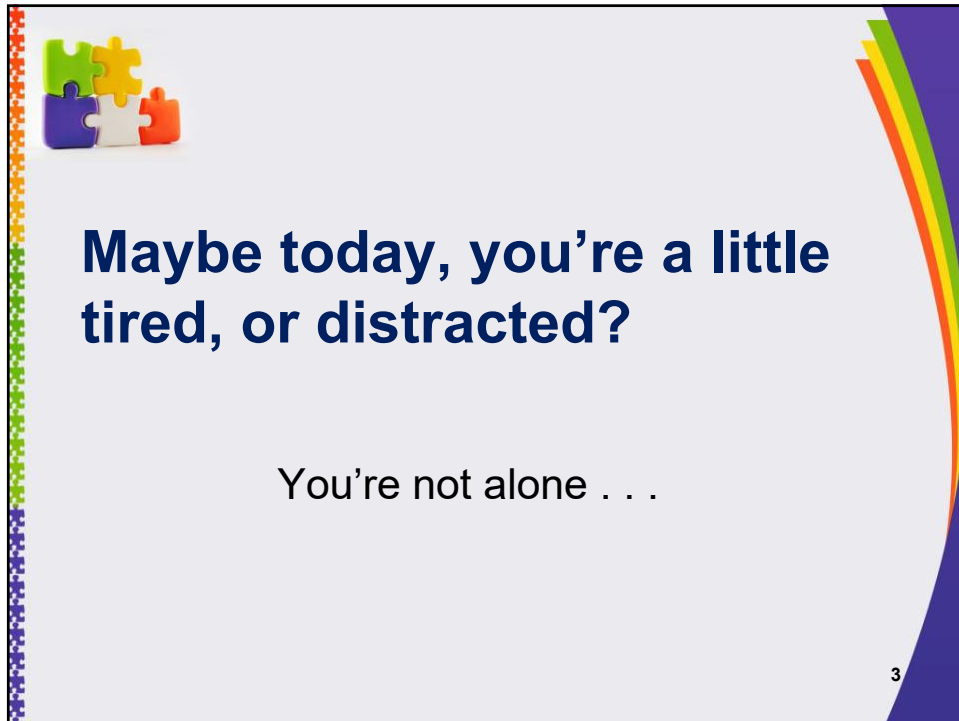


Moving Toward Collaboration to Help Families: It's Everyone's Responsibility!

Judge Douglas F. Johnson, (Ret.)
Linking Systems of Care
Info/Expo
June 2021

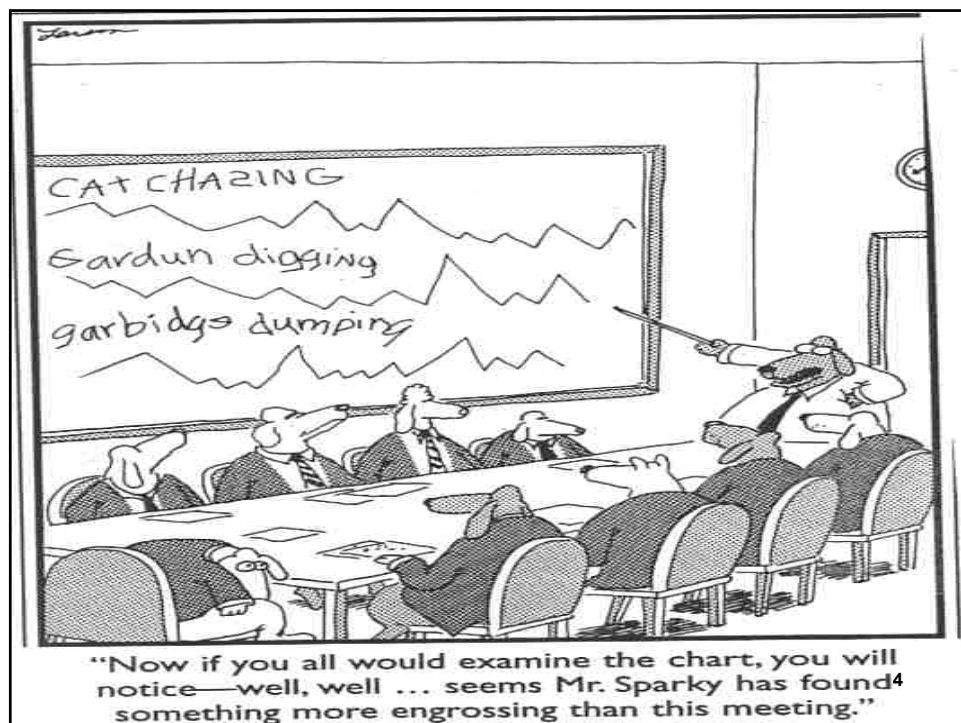
This presentation was supported by cooperative agreement number 2018-V3-GX-K014, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this meeting are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.

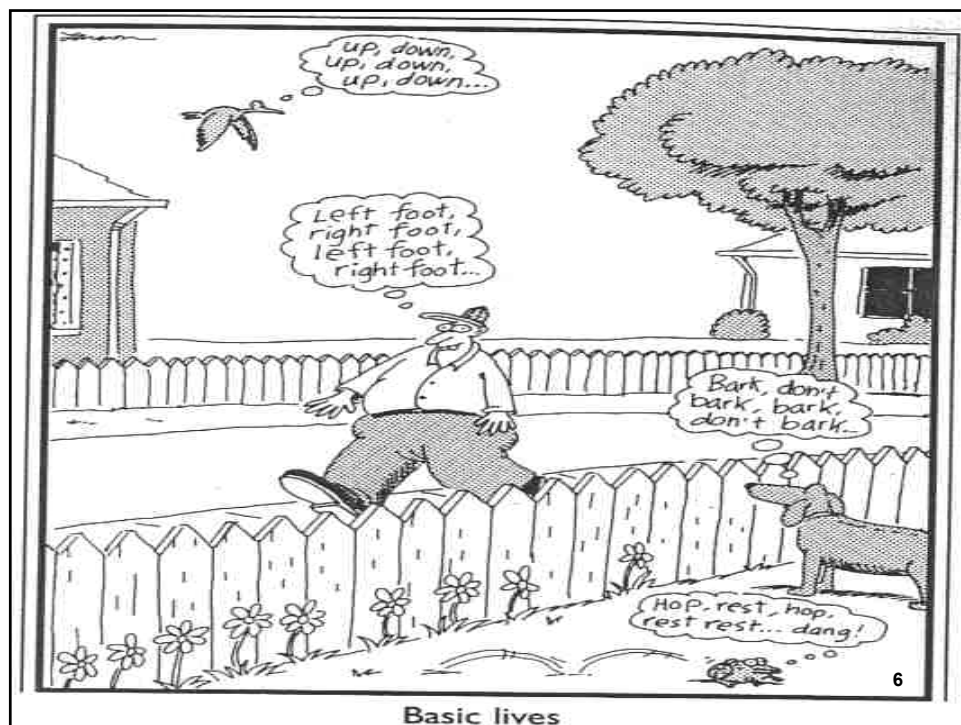
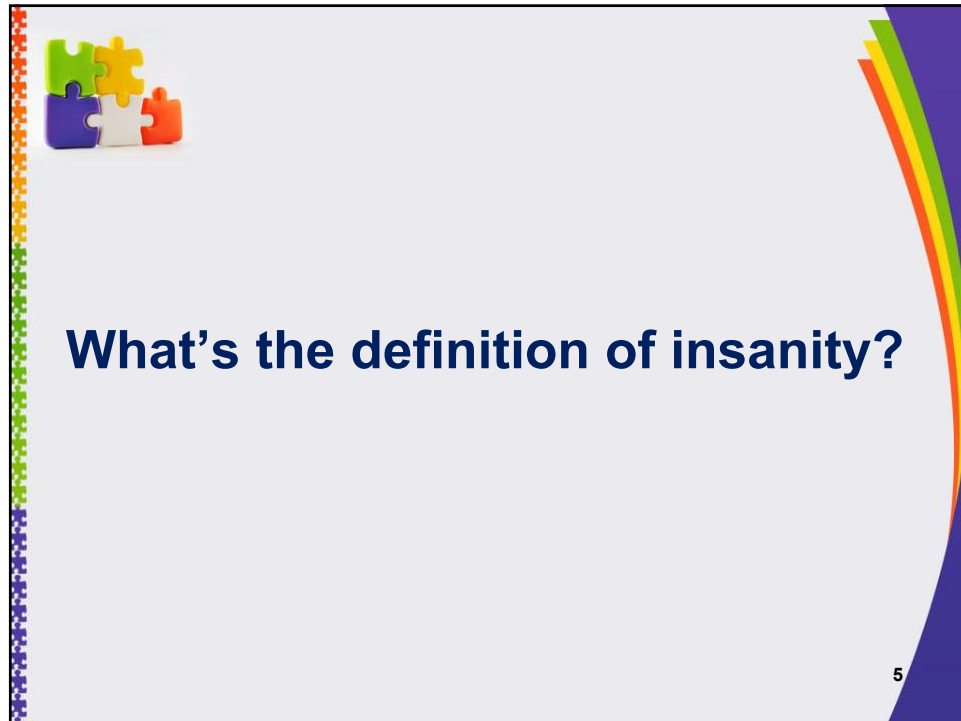



Maybe today, you're a little tired, or distracted?

You're not alone . . .

3








Conference Priority

Linking Systems of Care

7



Discussion Question

Within the context of the court system,
what is one word you think of when you
hear the phrase:

- collaborating toward a shared vision and
shared goals?

8

Linking Vision and Goals: Moving Forward Together for Children and Families



The Importance of Shared Vision

Generates a clear organizational and system purpose and promotes the necessary changes that need to occur to achieve desired future outcomes.

- It is a response to the question, “What do we want to create together?”



The Importance of Shared Vision

A shared vision helps to create a sense of commonality between system partners – providing coherence to varied activities and promoting understanding of different roles and responsibilities.

- People who truly share a vision are connected and bound together by a common aspiration.

11




A Shared Vision ...

- Focuses on a mutual purpose
- Is uplifting and motivational
- Encourages experimentation and innovation
- Fosters long-term commitment to change goals


12



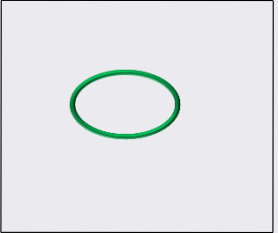

A visual ...




This is you – the Court




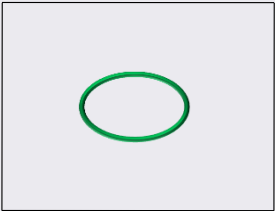
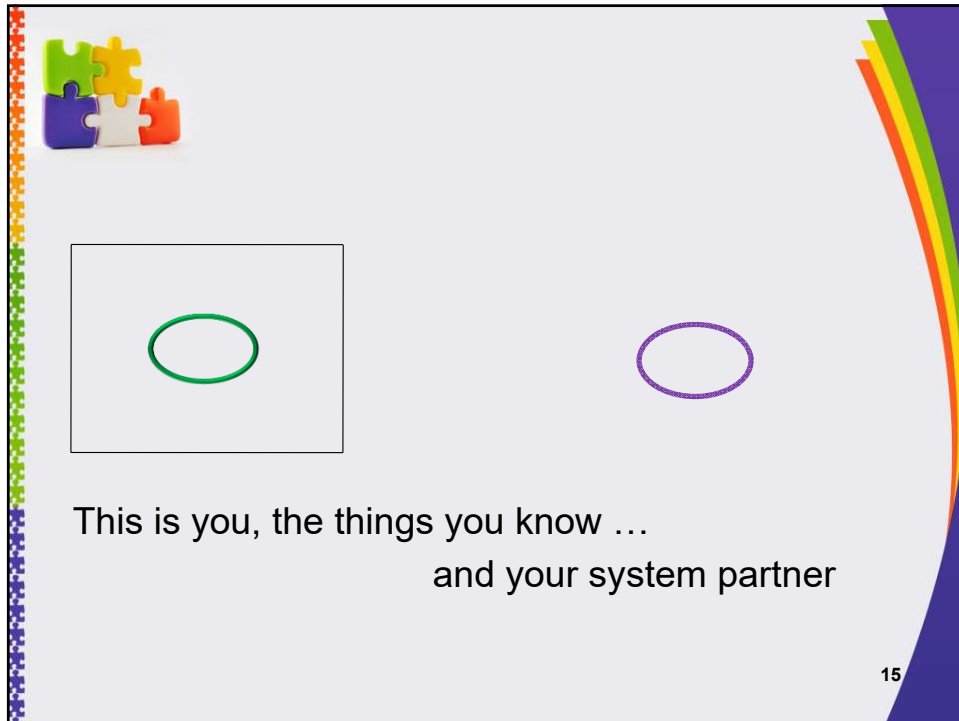
13



This is you and the things you know

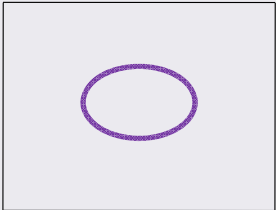
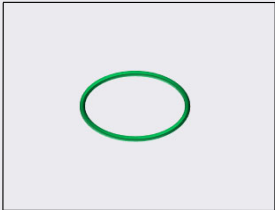
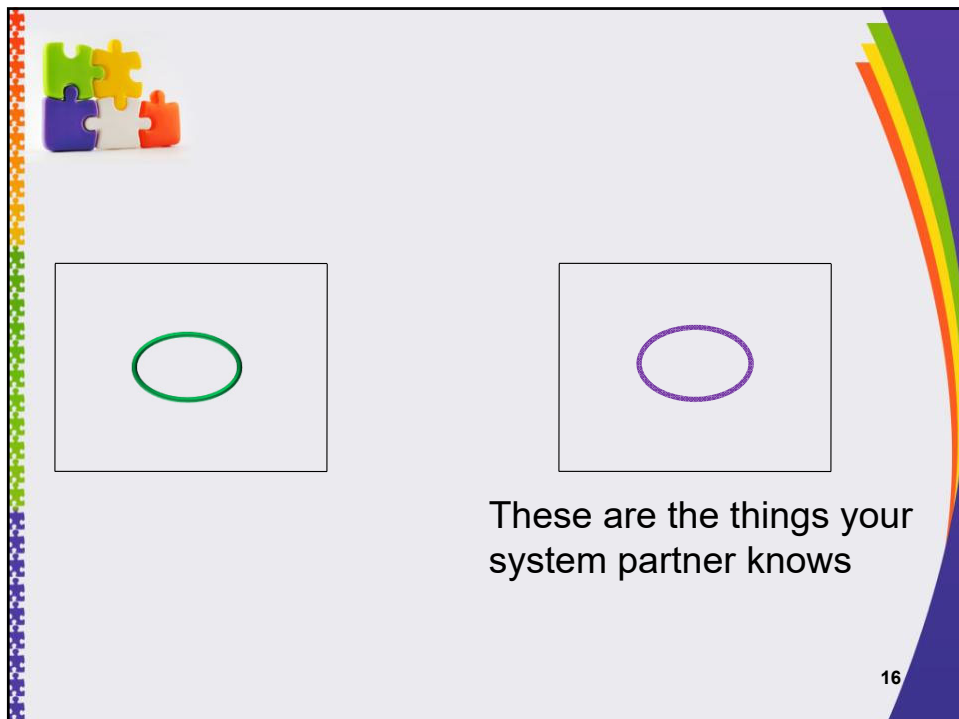


14



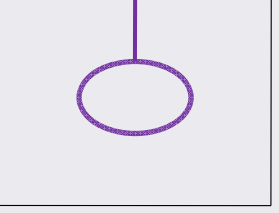
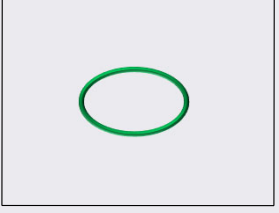


This is you, the things you know ...
and your system partner

15



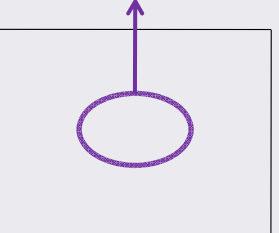
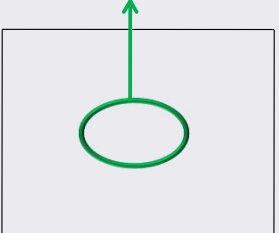


These are the things your
system partner knows

16



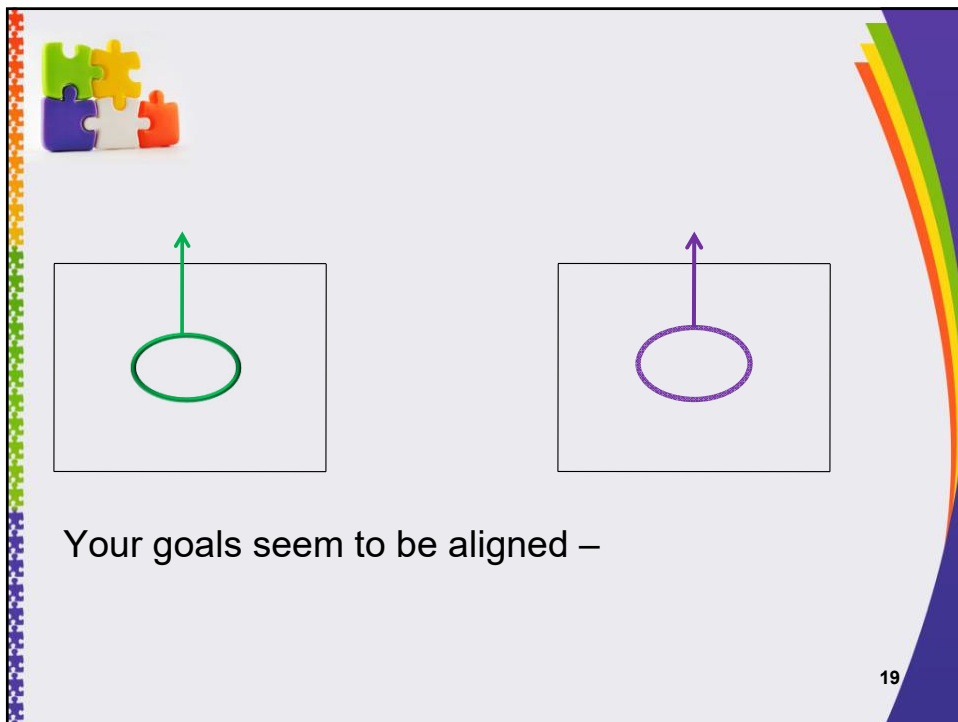
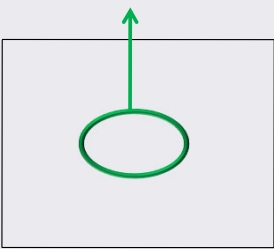
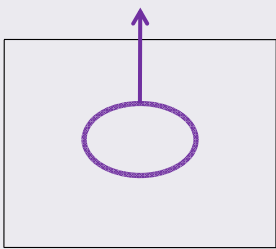
This is your partner's main goal

17



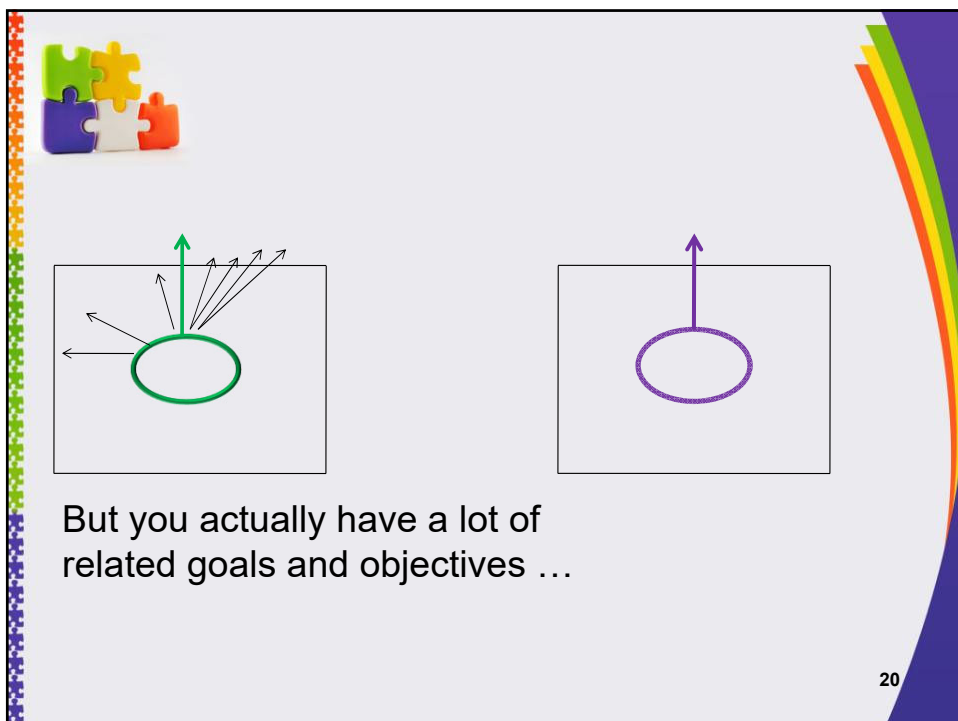
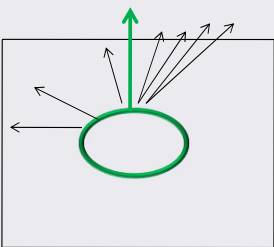
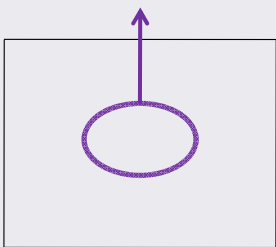
And this is your main goal

18


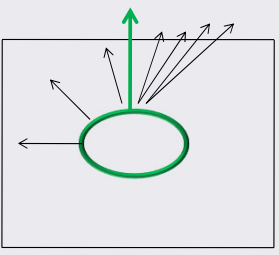
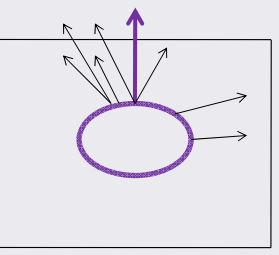
Your goals seem to be aligned –

19


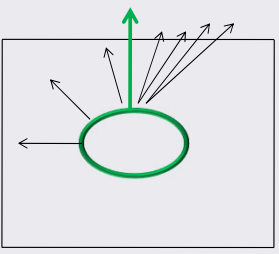
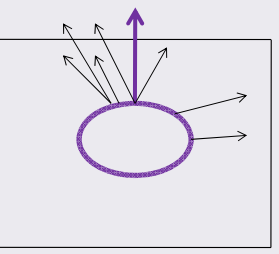
But you actually have a lot of related goals and objectives ...

20



And so does your partner ...

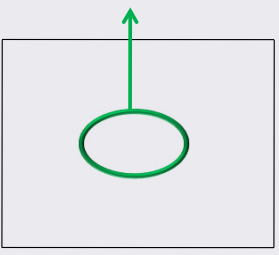
21

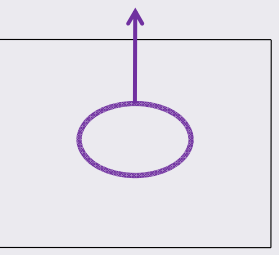




Your goals give you an orientation, a direction, a plan ... they give your system partner a direction and plan too ...

22






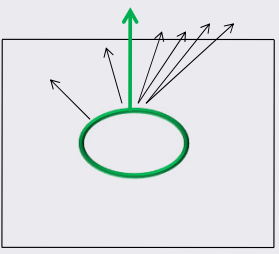


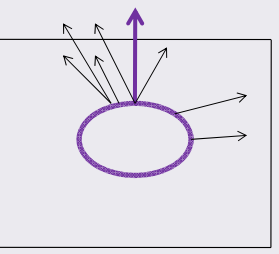


While your main goals may be perfectly aligned

23

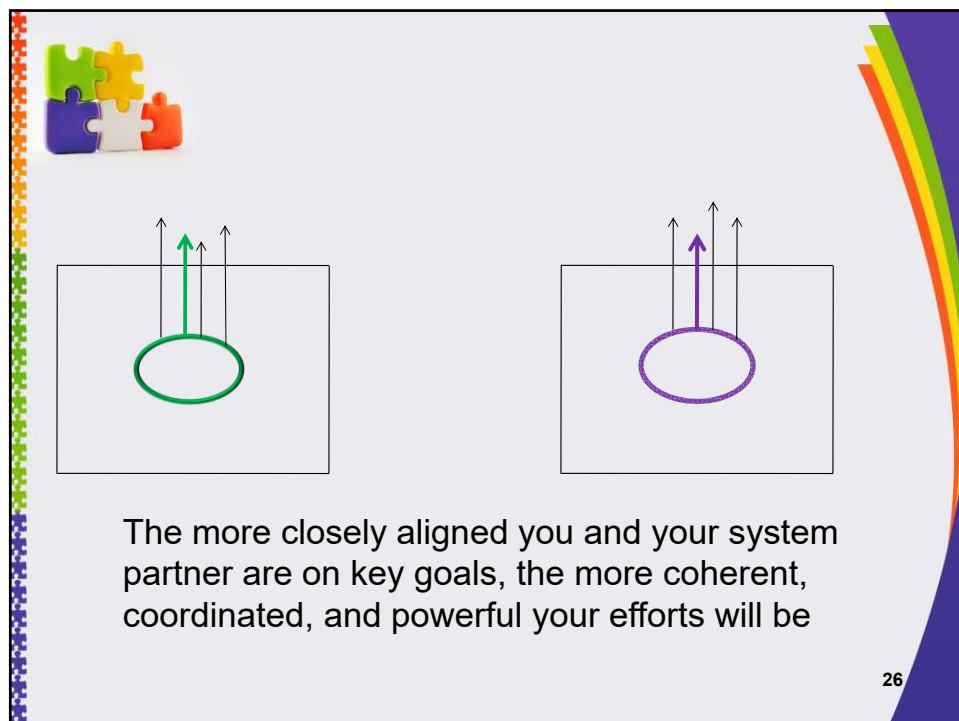
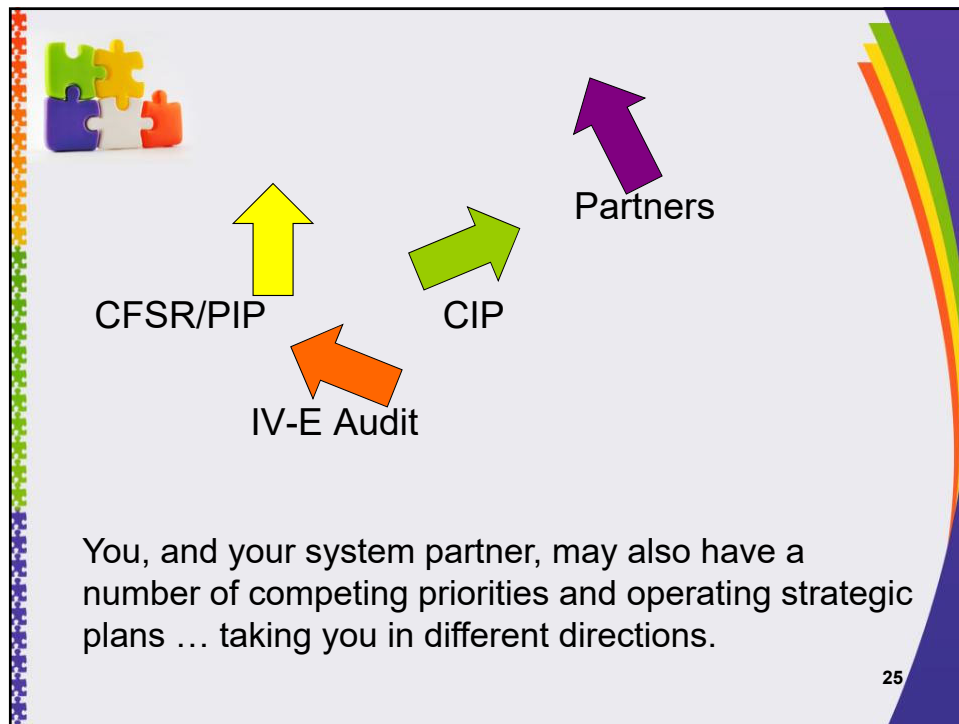







You aren't exactly on the same page ... While there is commonality and overlap, there are also differences

24





Why Align Goals?

While some differences in goals and objectives are appropriate for different organizations with different organizational frameworks, staff and mandates, there are clear advantages to aligning organizational change goals with your system partners

27



Why Align Goals?

Facilitates movement forward while reducing the likelihood that system partners will work at cross-purposes

- reduces chances that systems will pull against each other

28



Why Align Goals?

Affords the opportunity for differences to retreat into the background and for commonalities to become salient

- differences and conflict among institutions, agencies, and professions that may differ in philosophy, positional power, and resources can be overcome

29



Ways to Align Your Goals

Expand your scope so that you are more aware of partners' goals and motivations

Bring system partners to the table to participate in your strategic planning efforts

Involve system partners in specific initiatives that are aligned with each other's vision and goals

30



What do Judges have to do with it?

31



Solution Seeking Courts

The judge models civility, respect, dignity and requires others to do the same—engage!

Emergency Room Response: Act with a sense of urgency for the child & parent --as if this family is your own!

Front load services: Pragmatic, timely, effective response to abuse & neglect.

Affirmation with accountability motivates parental improvement/resolution of permanency.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Pre-Hearing Conference, Family Group Conference, Mediation.

Full parental participation from day one.

32



Reasonable Efforts

1) Maintain the family – Contrary to the Welfare Finding

- ☐ Finding must be in the first order of removal and if not made the child is not eligible for Title IV-E foster care payments for the duration of that stay in foster care.

45 C.F.R. §1356.21(b)

33



Reasonable Efforts

2) Effect the safe reunification of the child and family- (Reasonable Efforts to Prevent Removal)

- ☐ RE to prevent or eliminate the need for removal must be made w/in 60 days of removal (recommended at first hearing where removal can be challenged) and if not made the child is not eligible for Title IV-E foster care payments for the duration of that stay in foster care.

45 C.F.R. §1356.21(b)

34



Reasonable Efforts

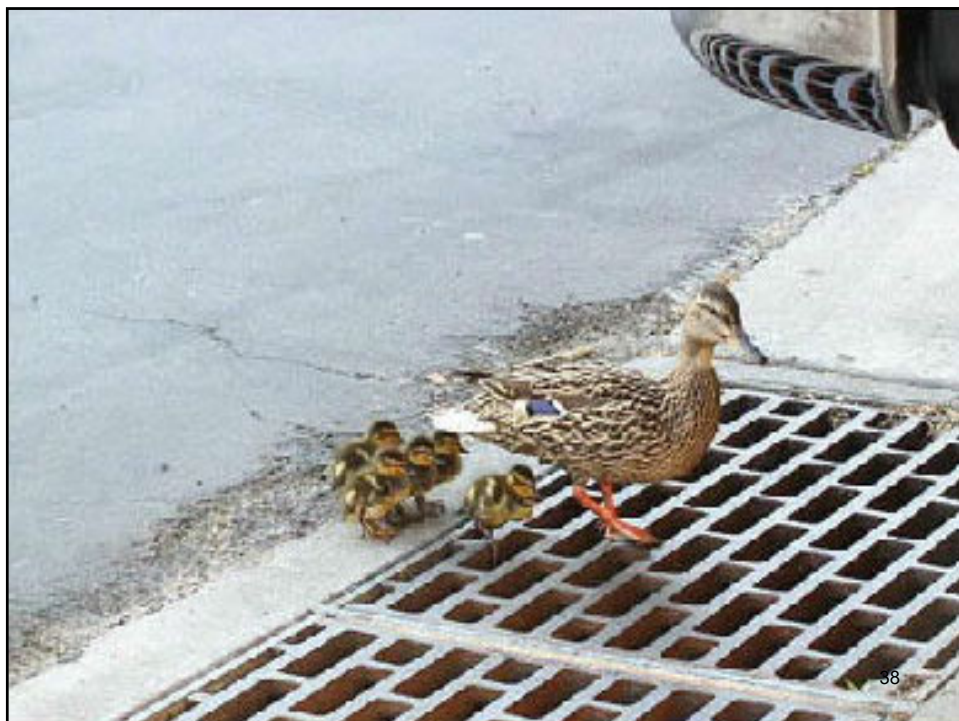
3) Finalize a Permanency plan

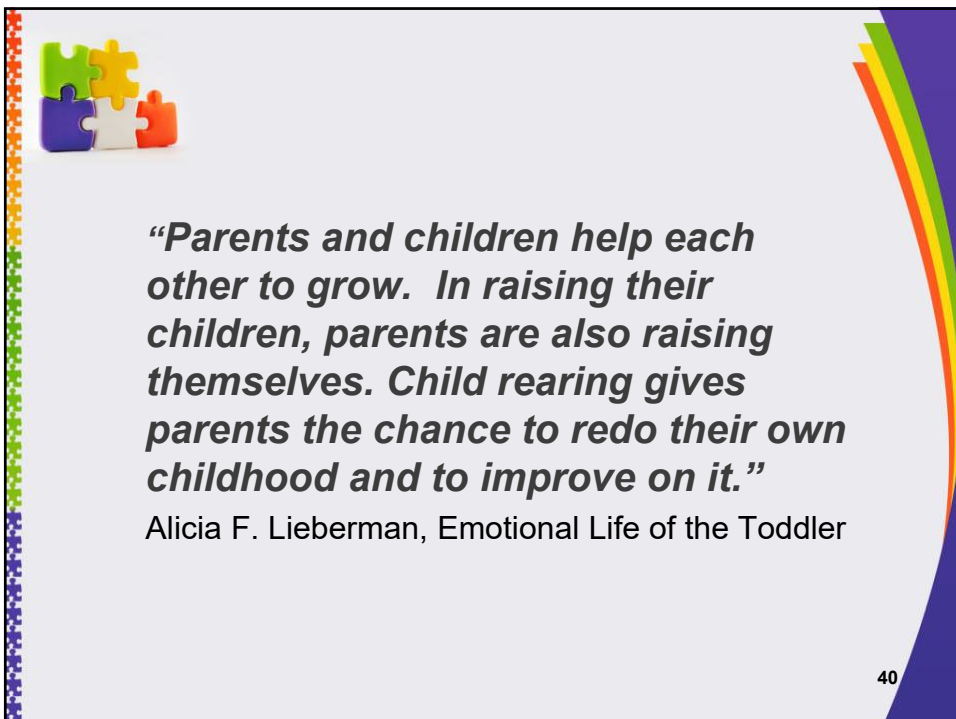
- ❑ Findings made w/in 12 months of removal and if not made the child becomes ineligible for IV-E from the end of the 12th month following the date the child is considered to have entered care or the end of the most recent judicial determination to finalize permanency was made and **remains ineligible until such a determination is made.**

45 C.F.R. §1356.21(b)

35







“Parents and children help each other to grow. In raising their children, parents are also raising themselves. Child rearing gives parents the chance to redo their own childhood and to improve on it.”

Alicia F. Lieberman, *Emotional Life of the Toddler*

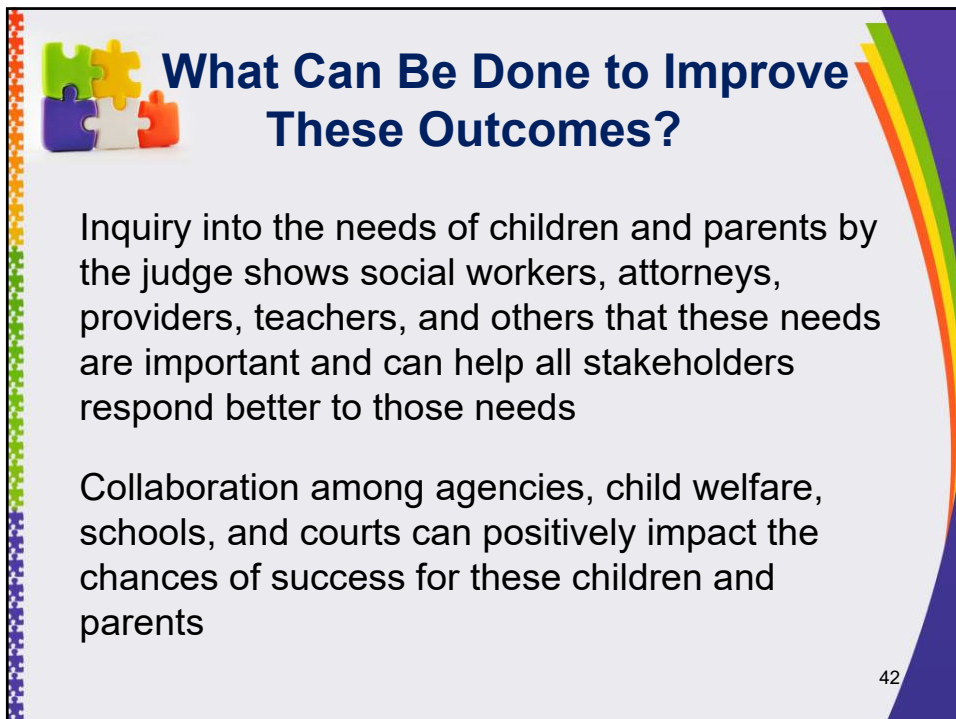
40



Traumatic Relationships CAN Be Repaired!

- Young children mental health assessments and treatment:
- Child Parent Psychotherapy
- Circle of Security
- Parent Child Interactive Therapy

41



What Can Be Done to Improve These Outcomes?

Inquiry into the needs of children and parents by the judge shows social workers, attorneys, providers, teachers, and others that these needs are important and can help all stakeholders respond better to those needs

Collaboration among agencies, child welfare, schools, and courts can positively impact the chances of success for these children and parents

42



Key Elements

- Focus on holistic child/parent well-being.
- Frequent & meaningful family time with safety plan.
- Parents and children reside together as soon as safely possible.

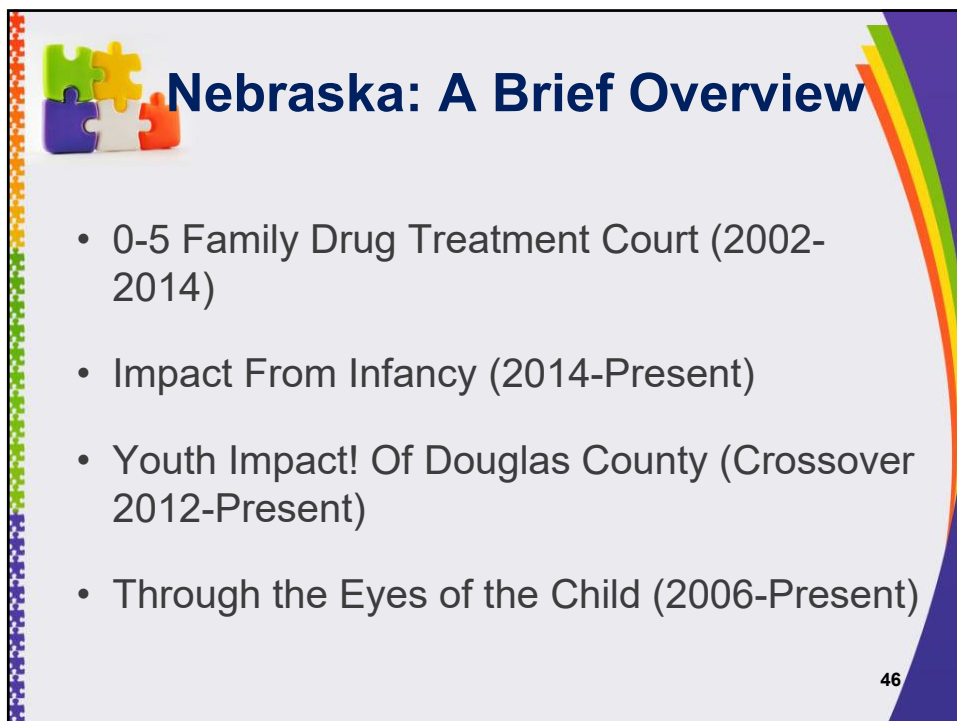
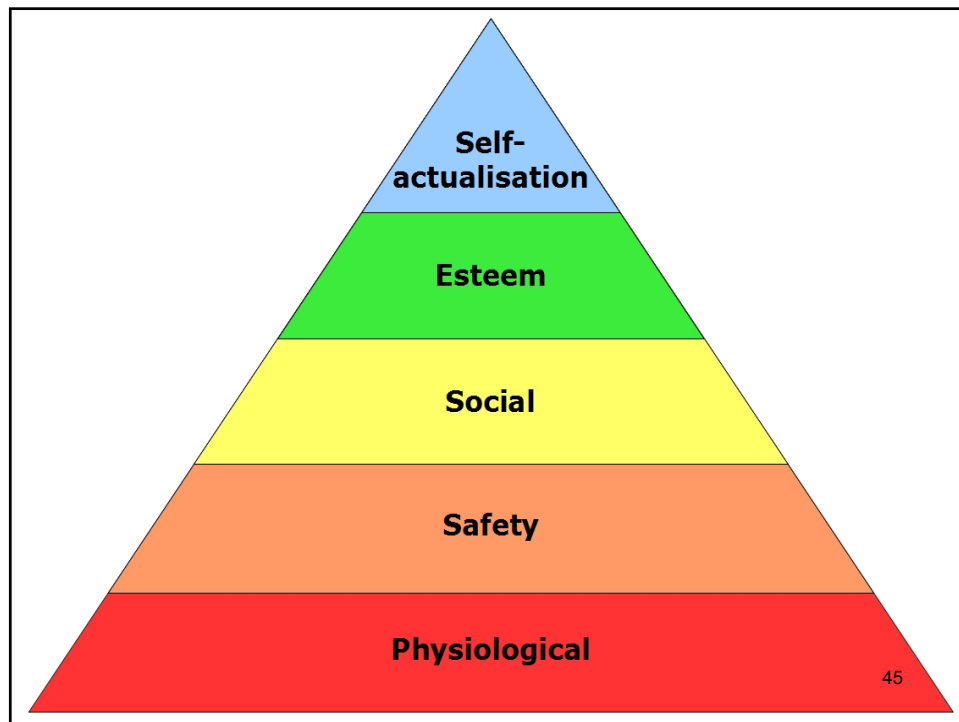
43



Inability to Comply Is DIFFERENT than “Non-Compliance”

**Good Initial & Ongoing Assessment
Is Essential to Distinguishing the
Difference**

44



A slide titled "Nebraska: A Brief Overview" with a decorative border on the left and right. The left border features a vertical strip of colorful puzzle pieces. The right border features a curved rainbow. The title is in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below the title is a bulleted list of four items. The number 46 is in the bottom right corner.

Nebraska: A Brief Overview

- 0-5 Family Drug Treatment Court (2002-2014)
- Impact From Infancy (2014-Present)
- Youth Impact! Of Douglas County (Crossover 2012-Present)
- Through the Eyes of the Child (2006-Present)

46



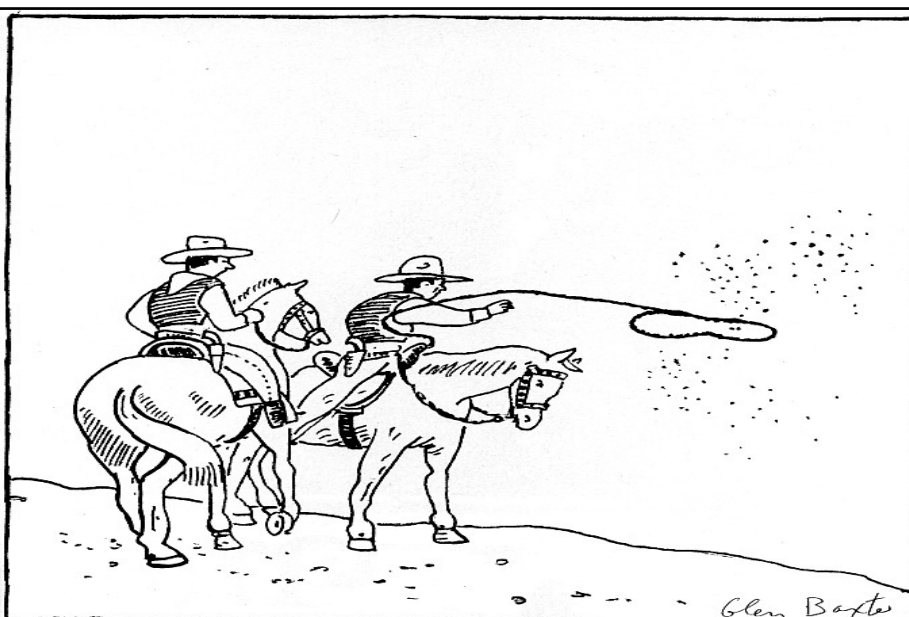
Key Elements of a Solution Seeking Court

Intense Judicial Oversight.

Front-Load Reasonable Efforts Services.

Intense Case Management.

47



MY FIRST JOB WAS TO CLEAR THE
RANGE OF MOSQUITOES.

48



Goals for Children

- All early development needs are met.
- Stop foster care drift: Permanency from Day One.
- Achieve a timely, safe, secure, permanent home consistent with ASFA: *12 Month PPH or sooner.*
- *Best interests & safety: nurturing, loving, consistent caregiver to meet this child's needs.*

49



Child Welfare Mandate

. . .protect the children's *current* and **future** safety and well-being, while strengthening and preserving the family unit . . . whenever possible.

50



Goals for Parents

90% abuse/neglect cases: Substance use and mental health.

Active participation & responsibility.

Adequate parenting skills, demonstrate the ability to provide a safe, healthy family environment for their children = reunification.

Due process & fair hearings.

51




Setting the Stage for Better Permanency Outcomes

Establishing the Foundation
The NCJFCJ Enhanced Resource Guidelines

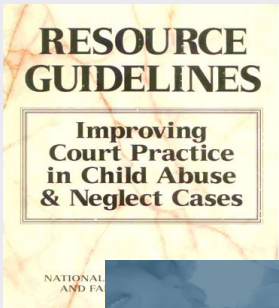


52

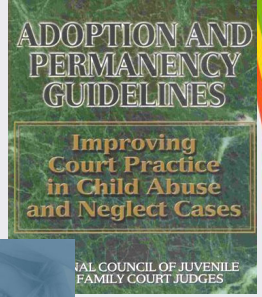


Enhanced Resource Guidelines

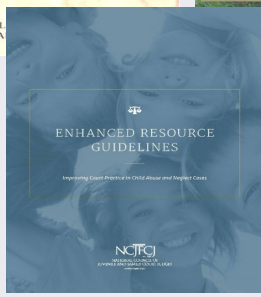
- Purpose
- Value to all child protection stakeholders
- Need for enhancement
 - Changing law, knowledge gained about best practices



RESOURCE GUIDELINES
Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases
NATIONAL AND FA



ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY GUIDELINES
Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE FAMILY COURT JUDGES





ENHANCED RESOURCE GUIDELINES
Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases
NCFJ

53



BUILDING A BETTER COLLABORATION

FACILITATING CHANGE IN THE COURT AND CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM




NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
VOLUME VIII
NUMBER 2
APRIL 2004

54



Enhanced Resource Guidelines

Key Principles of Permanency Planning

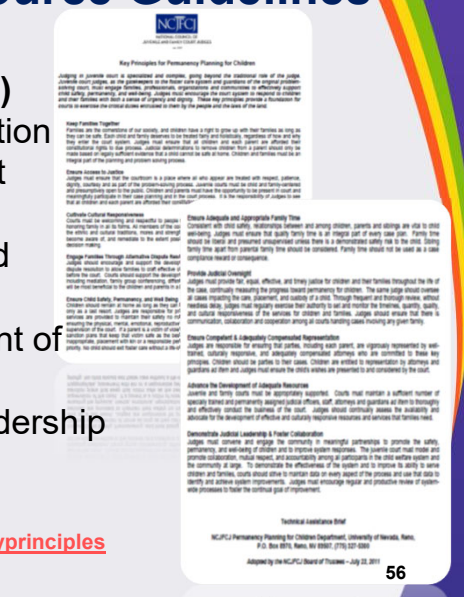
- Keep families together
- Ensure access to justice
- Cultivate cultural responsiveness
- Engage families through alternative dispute resolutions techniques
- Ensure child safety, permanency and well-being



Enhanced Resource Guidelines

Key Principles (continued)

- Ensure family time/visitation
- Provide judicial oversight
- Ensure competent and adequately compensated representation
- Advance the development of adequate resources
- Demonstrate judicial leadership and foster collaboration



http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/keyprinciples_final_permplanning.pdf



More Court-System Stakeholders Collaboration

- Impact from Infancy
- Adoption Saturday
- Family Reunification Picnic
- Kids and Judges Day
- CYPM
- Court Kid's Books Library
- Backpacks & Duffle Bags
- Vicarious Trauma--Self-Care

57



Judicial Leadership On The Bench

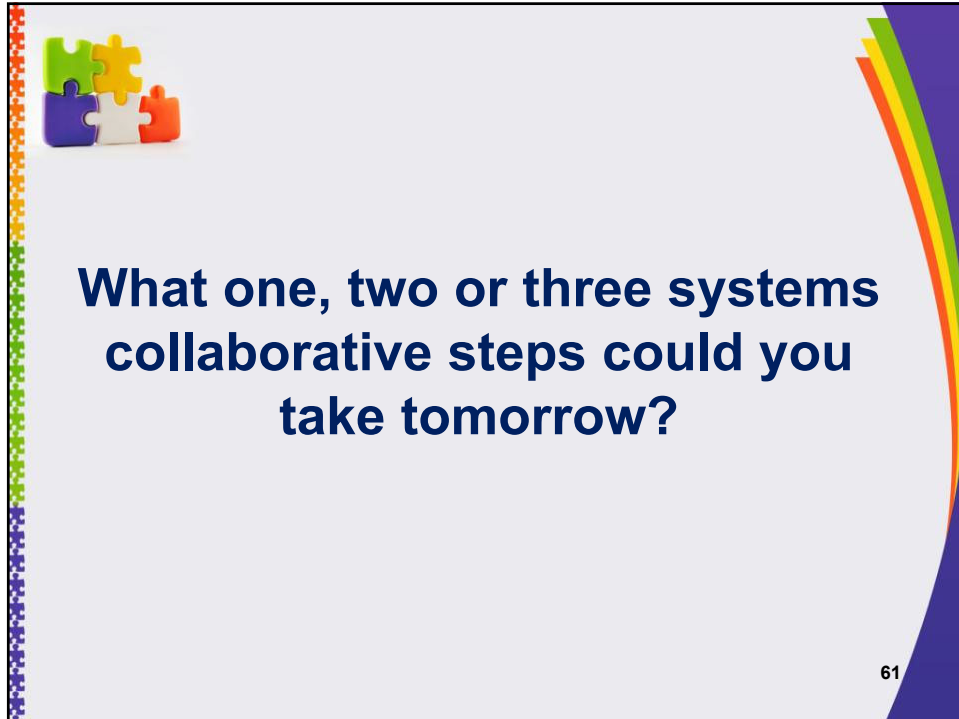
- BIG PICTURE - Ensure that every child that should be in care is in care, but not a single child more.
- Ensure that every child that is in care is in a safe, nurturing placement that is supportive of the permanency plan.
- Actively monitor cases & allow adequate time for thorough hearings.
- Set clear expectations for all parties and stakeholders.
- Ask appropriate questions, engage children and families.
- Create a courtroom environment of dignity, respect & cultural understanding.
- Hold stakeholders accountable for their roles & responsibilities.



Judicial Leadership Off the Bench

- Forming a local collaborative team of stakeholders to engage in systems reform.
- Promoting and modeling self-evaluation in the handling of child abuse and neglect cases.
- Serving as a source of information to the community about the needs of children and families.





What one, two or three systems collaborative steps could you take tomorrow?

61

