

# **The State of Prevention: Family First Prevention Services Act and Early Childhood Prevention Programs**

Alliance for Early Success

**National Issues** ▶ **State Action**

July 30, 2020

**Welcome.**



# Today's Program



## Family First Prevention Services Act: Opportunities for Influence and Action

**Allison Blake**

*CEO, Child and Family Agency of  
Southeastern Connecticut*



## Structural Racism and Poverty as Drivers of Entry into the Child Welfare System

**Jeremy Kohomban**

*President and CEO, The Children's  
Village; President, Harlem Dowling*



# Family First Prevention Services Act: Opportunities for Influence and Action

Alliance for Early Success Summer Series

July 30, 2020

Allison Blake, MSW PhD



# What's in a name?



# Placing Family First in historical context: this is the culmination of a 40+ year push for family care

- 1961 AFDC Foster Care created
- 1980 Reasonable efforts, Adoption Assistance (lost battle to include prevention funding in Title IV-E)
- 1994 IV-B Part 2 (FPFS) created – Capped prevention funding
- 1994 First IV-E Waivers to spur prevention
- 1996 TANF Block Grant (EA prevention funds rolled in)
- 1997 ASFA (IV-B language on services for timely reunification that was intended for IV-E)
- 2008 Fostering Connections Act (push for family placements with kin, and placing siblings together)
- 2010 ACA (home visiting prevention services)
- 2011 Child Welfare Improvement Act (reauthorization of waivers)

# Implications and Opportunities

- Historically, not all children placed in foster care due to imminent danger
- Many public child welfare agencies underfunded and unable to provide voluntary services to intact families
- Little evidence to demonstrate effectiveness of services to support families

*\*Family First* changes that – removes the financial incentive to remove children from family home and creates opportunity to develop continuum of care to support families in their communities

# Where are we now?

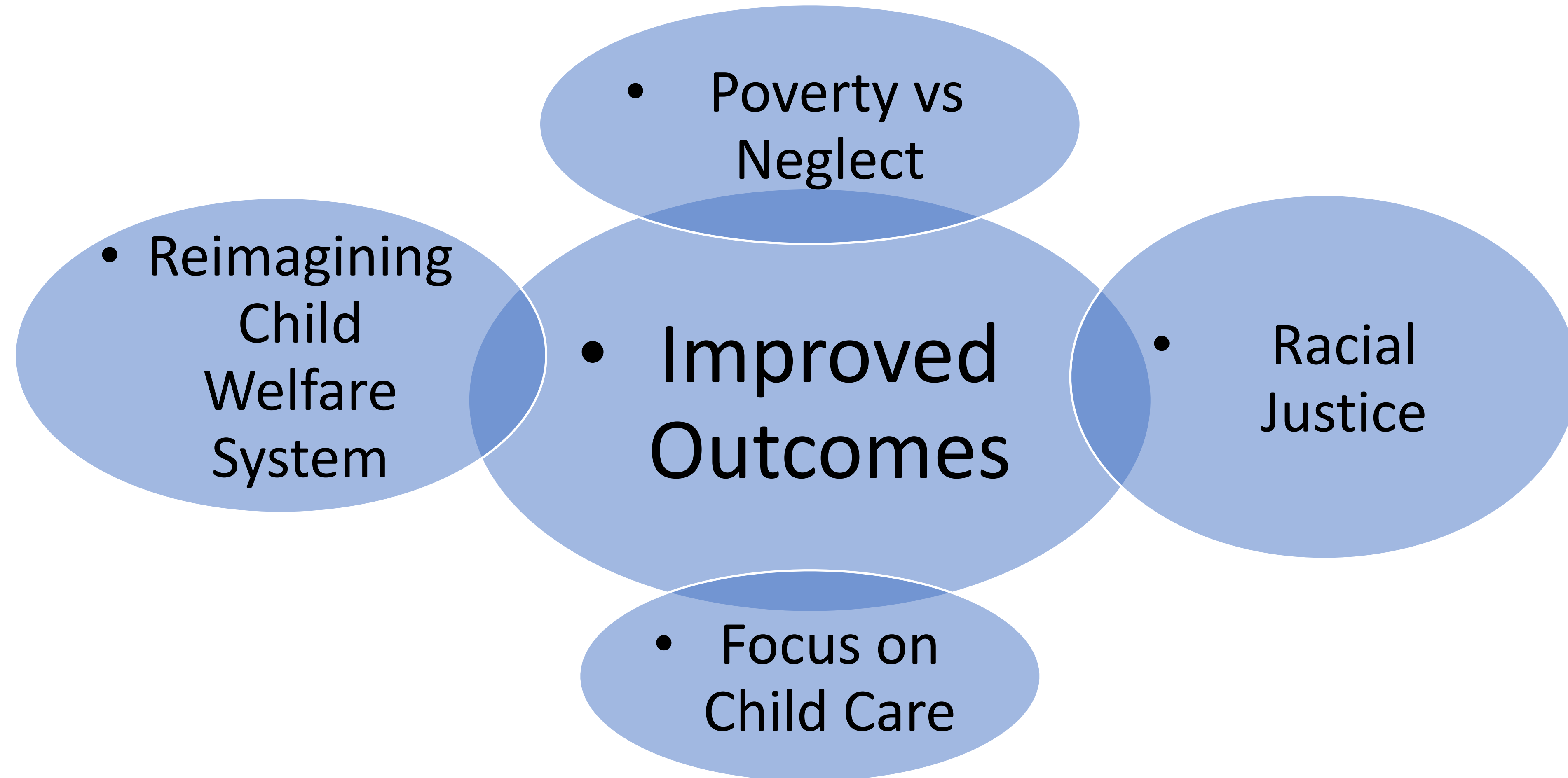
- Nine states and tribes have submitted the Title IV-E 5 year prevention plan
- Six of those plans have been approved by the Children's Bureau
- Ongoing efforts across states and jurisdictions to form partnerships across the system (**CPS, Courts, Community Agencies, Health, Advocacy, Education, Legal, Philanthropy, Research and Academia**) to develop comprehensive 5 year plan
- Most important aspect of this is the state definition of ***candidacy***



# Opportunities to Influence

- 
- Broad Stakeholder Input
  - New Candidacy Definition
  - Five Year Prevention Plan

# Why It Matters



# Early Childhood Field As Experts

- Many of evidence based models receiving initial approval are from the early childhood field
- Existing relationships with those model developers will be key as work to adapt to needs of differing/new populations
- Goal of raising this work up and out of CPS agency made possible by existing expertise in Public Health and Early Childhood and Education



# Washington DC Website

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://cfsa.dc.gov/page/families-first-dc>. The browser tabs include "CFA Staff Portal | Agency news an...", "Families First DC | cfsa", and a plus sign for additional tabs. The browser interface shows navigation buttons (back, forward, refresh, home), a search bar, and a toolbar with icons for Apps, Paychex Flex, and Child Health and Dev.

The website header features the DC.gov logo and the text "Child and Family Services Agency" with a search icon. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: [CFSA Home](#), [Services](#), [For Youth](#), [For Families](#), [For Partners](#), [Strategies & Performance](#), and [About CFSA](#).

The main content area is titled "Families First DC". On the left, there is a logo for "CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES" and a section titled "Office Hours" with the text "Monday to Friday 8:15 am to 4:45 pm". Below this is a "Connect With Us" section with the address "200 I Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003", phone number "(202) 442-6100", fax number "(202) 727-6505", TTY "711", and email "[cfsa@dc.gov](mailto:cfsa@dc.gov)". There are also social media icons for Google+ and Twitter, and links for "Ask the Director", "Agency Performance", and "Amharic (አማርኛ)".

The central text describes the "Families First DC" initiative, stating that DC has embraced a family strengthening vision that is broader and bolder than Family First, and Mayor Muriel Bowser has reinforced that vision with a companion initiative: Families First DC. It mentions that in her FY20 budget, the Mayor has proposed \$4.75 million to fund ten Family Success Centers in targeted neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, where approximately three-quarters of the children and families served by CFSA live. Mayor Bowser is investing in CFSA's long-standing prevention and early intervention work to an unprecedented level through the launch of a new city-wide prevention plan: Families First DC.

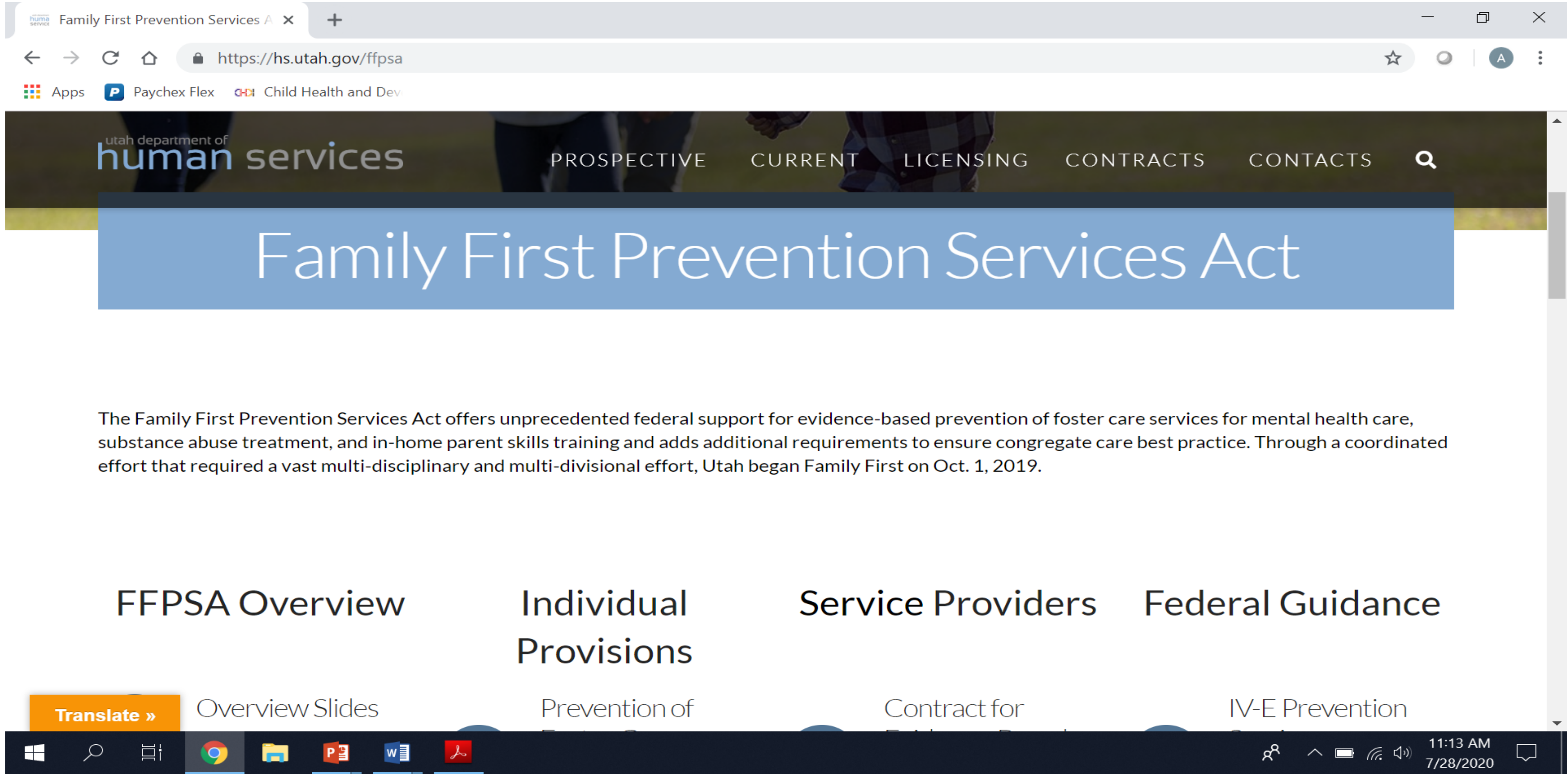
The goal for Families First DC is to:

- Empower Communities - Place-based approach - neighborhoods, and families will create Family Success Centers to meet their specific needs.
- Integrate Services - Centers will be uniquely designed by each community to facilitate access to existing government and community resources tailored to

On the right side, there is a photo of four people (three women and one man) and a section titled "Search the 211 Answers, Please! database of service providers." Below this is a section titled "For inquiries regarding SNAP, TANF and Medicaid benefits, please call (202) 727-5355." and a section titled "Mandated Reporter Training" with a photo of four people.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, search bar, task view button, and several open applications: Google Chrome, File Explorer, PowerPoint, Word, and Adobe Reader. The system tray on the right shows the date and time: "11:11 AM 7/28/2020".

# Utah Website





# New York State Initiative

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs open, including 'CFA Staff Portal', 'Mail - Allison Blake', 'Inbox - ablake62@g...', 'Family First NY | Reac', 'Member Portal | Mac', and 'My Meetings - Zoom'. The address bar shows the URL 'https://www.familyfirstny.org'. The website header features the logo 'FamilyFirstNY.org' with the tagline 'Strategies and Tools for New York Counties' and a navigation menu with links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'TOOLS & RESOURCES', and 'NEWSLETTERS'. The main content area has a background image of hands working on papers and a large heading 'The Family First Readiness Initiative'. Below this heading is a subheading 'Catalyzing system reform with NY counties' and a paragraph 'The timeline of the Redlich Horwitz Foundation's New York State Family First Readiness effort'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 5:02 PM on 7/27/2020.

CFA Staff Portal | Age x | Mail - Allison Blake - x | Inbox - ablake62@g... x | Family First NY | Reac x | Member Portal | Mac x | My Meetings - Zoom x | + - x

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://www.familyfirstny.org ☆ 🔄 A ⋮

Apps Paychex Flex Child Health and Dev

**FamilyFirstNY.org**  
Strategies and Tools for New York Counties

HOME ABOUT TOOLS & RESOURCES NEWSLETTERS

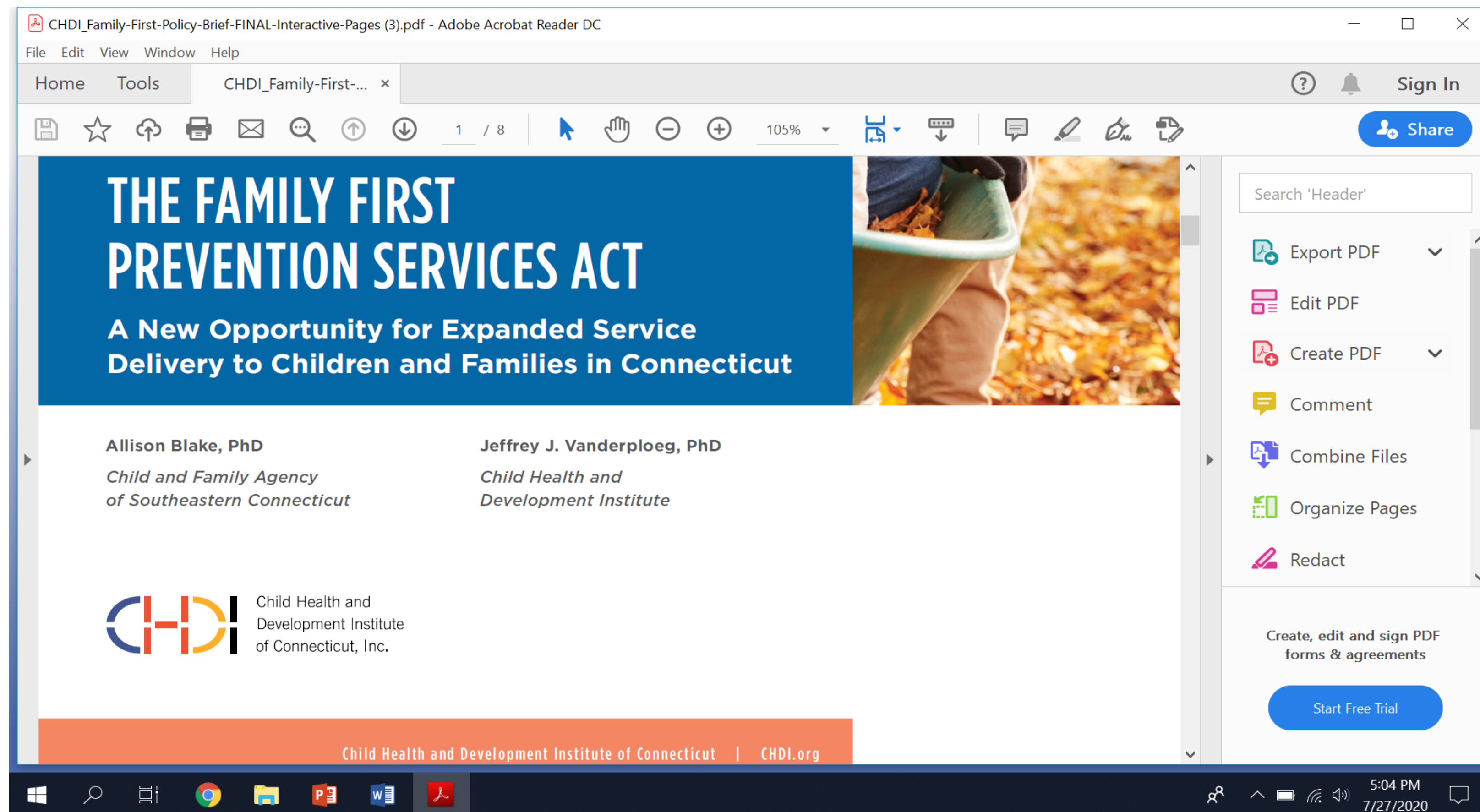
## The Family First Readiness Initiative

**Catalyzing system reform with NY counties**

The timeline of the Redlich Horwitz Foundation's New York State Family First Readiness effort

5:02 PM 7/27/2020

# Connecticut Efforts





# CT Workgroups

Home

https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/CTFamilyFirst/Home

Apps Paychex Flex Child Health and Dev

CT.gov Home / Department of Children and Families / Connecticut Family First

Adoption/Foster Care >

Employment >

FAQs >

For Children >

For Families >

For Providers >

For Teens >

Mandated Reporter Training >

Med Admin Cert Training >

Search Department of Children and Families

by Keyword

## Connecticut Family First

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.

**COMMITTEES / WORKGROUPS:**

Candidacy	Community Partnership
Fiscal And Revenue Enhancement	
Governance	Kinship and Foster Care
Program and Service Array	
Intensive Treatment 24/7 (QRTP)	

TOP

Windows Taskbar

4:49 PM 7/29/2020

**Child & Family**  
**Agency** of Southeastern  
Connecticut, Inc.

# CT Candidacy Workgroup

CFA Staff Portal | Age x | Mail - Allison Blake - x | Inbox - ablake62@gr x | Family First NY | Reac x | Policy Brief - The Fan x | Microsoft Word - Fin x

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/CTFamilyFirst/Candidacy/pdf/FinalCandidacyCharter12192019.pdf

Apps Paychex Flex Child Health and Dev

The candidacy workgroup's scope is to develop a data-informed recommendation(s) of the populations of focus for prevention so that the governance committee can make decisions about the title IV-E Prevention Plan's definition of candidacy and inform its larger prevention system efforts. The two goals require the consideration of two related but separate populations with different characteristics, as represented in the diagram below:

The diagram consists of two overlapping circles. The larger, light green circle is labeled 'Children/Families to Target for Prevention Efforts'. The smaller, light blue circle is labeled 'Children determined at imminent risk of entering foster care absent a Family First EPB for them/their family to prevent that entry PLUS pregnant/parenting youth'. A green arrow points from the green circle to the word 'Prevention'. A blue arrow points from the blue circle to the word 'Candidacy'.

Windows taskbar: 11:05 AM 7/28/2020

# Thank You!

Allison Blake, MSW PhD

Chief Executive Officer

Child & Family Agency of SECT

[blakea@childandfamilyagency.org](mailto:blakea@childandfamilyagency.org)

<https://www.childandfamilyagency.org/>



# Questions

# The Children's Village

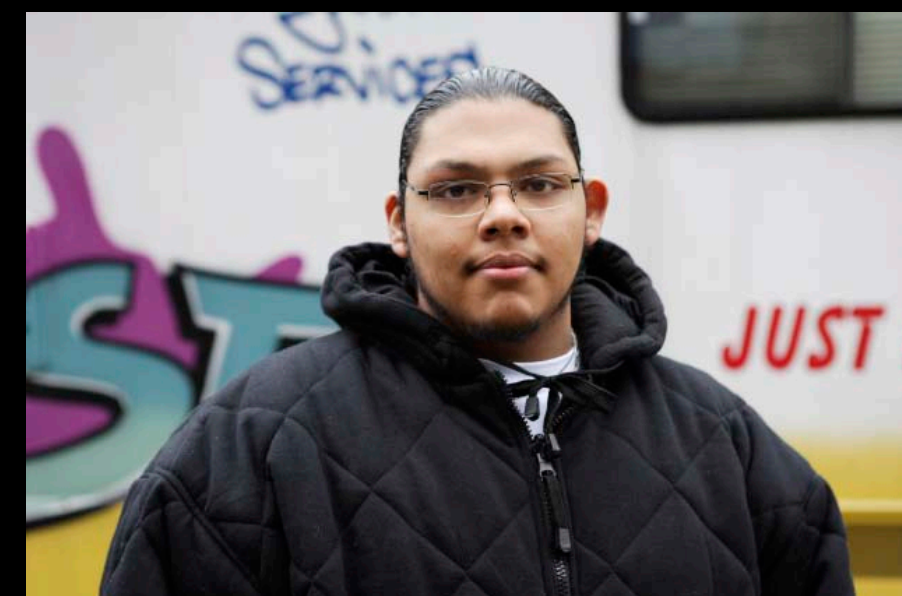
*Keeping Children Safe and Families Together since 1851*

**Jeremy Christopher Kohomban, Ph.D.**

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**childrensvillage.org**

@jeremycv





# Founded, 1851

- New York Juvenile Asylum (not an orphanage)









# The Orphan Train 1854-1929



- Responsible for approximately 3,000 each day
- 40% high-need residential care, “hard-to-place”  
deep-end foster care, juvenile justice & immigration.
- 60% prevention – family foster care, wrap-around,  
school-based, community investment
- A strong team of 1400 & 5 labor unions

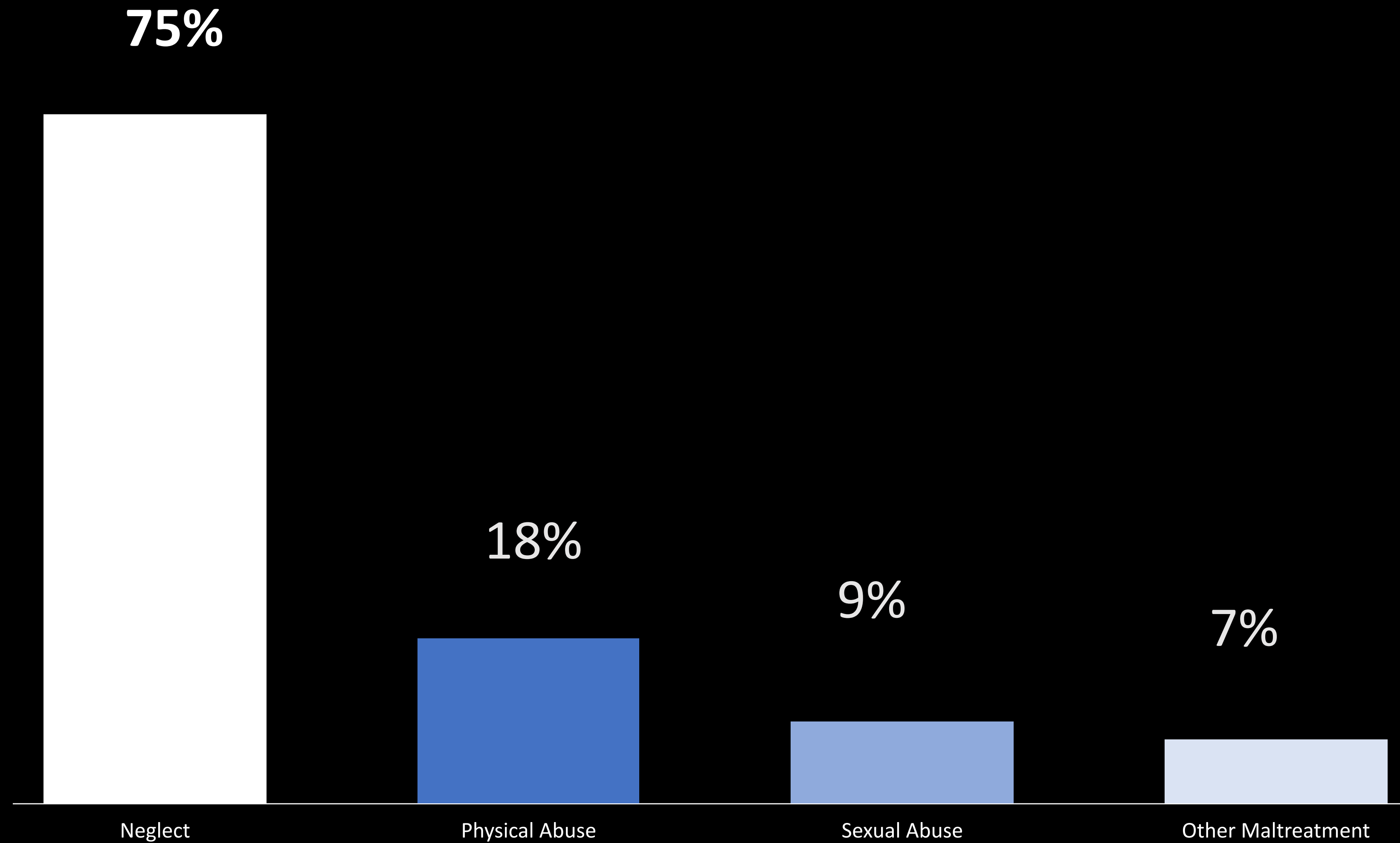
# A PERSISTENT THEME

## Family Separation



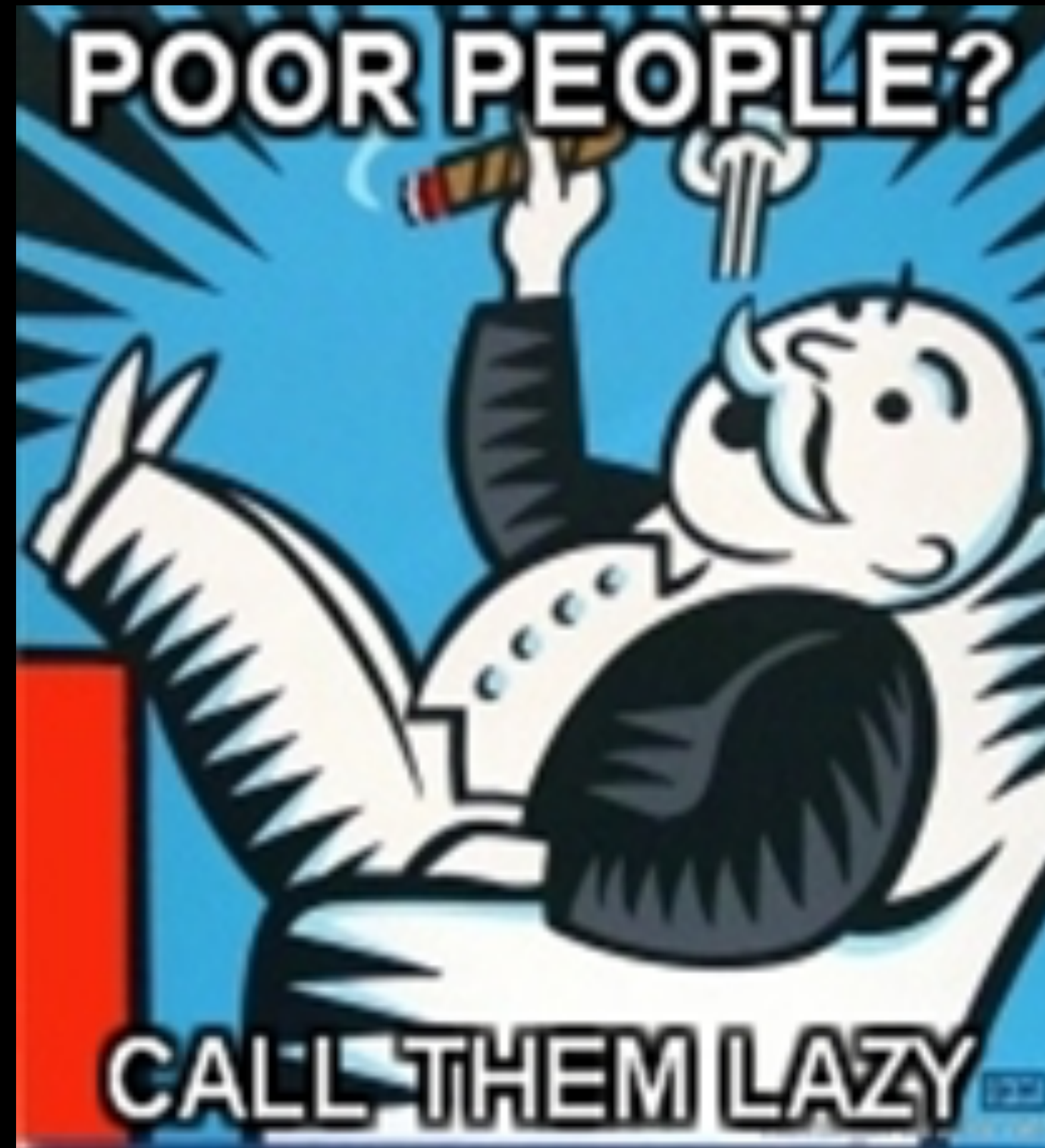


# RESONS FOR FAMILY SEPARATION



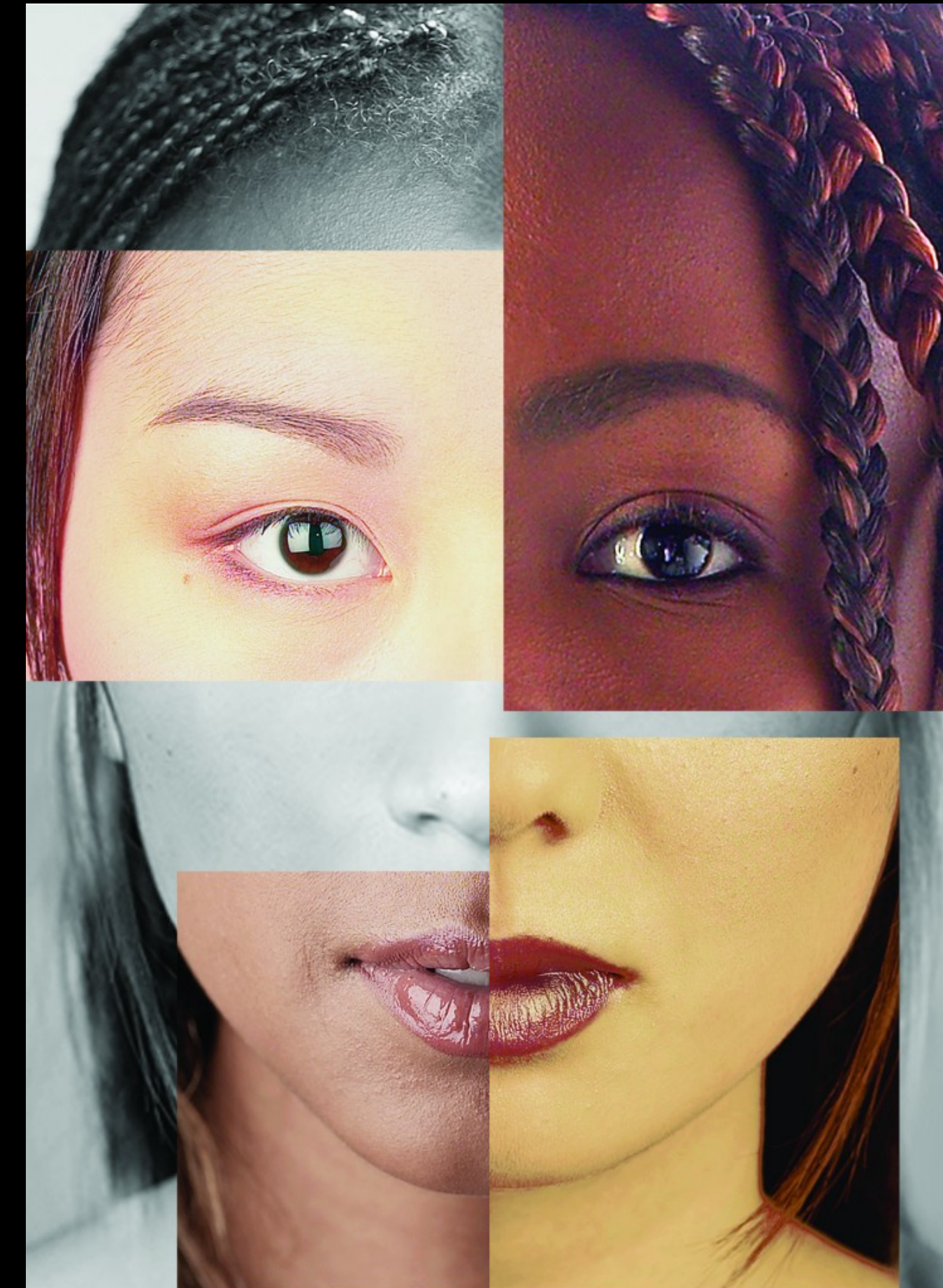
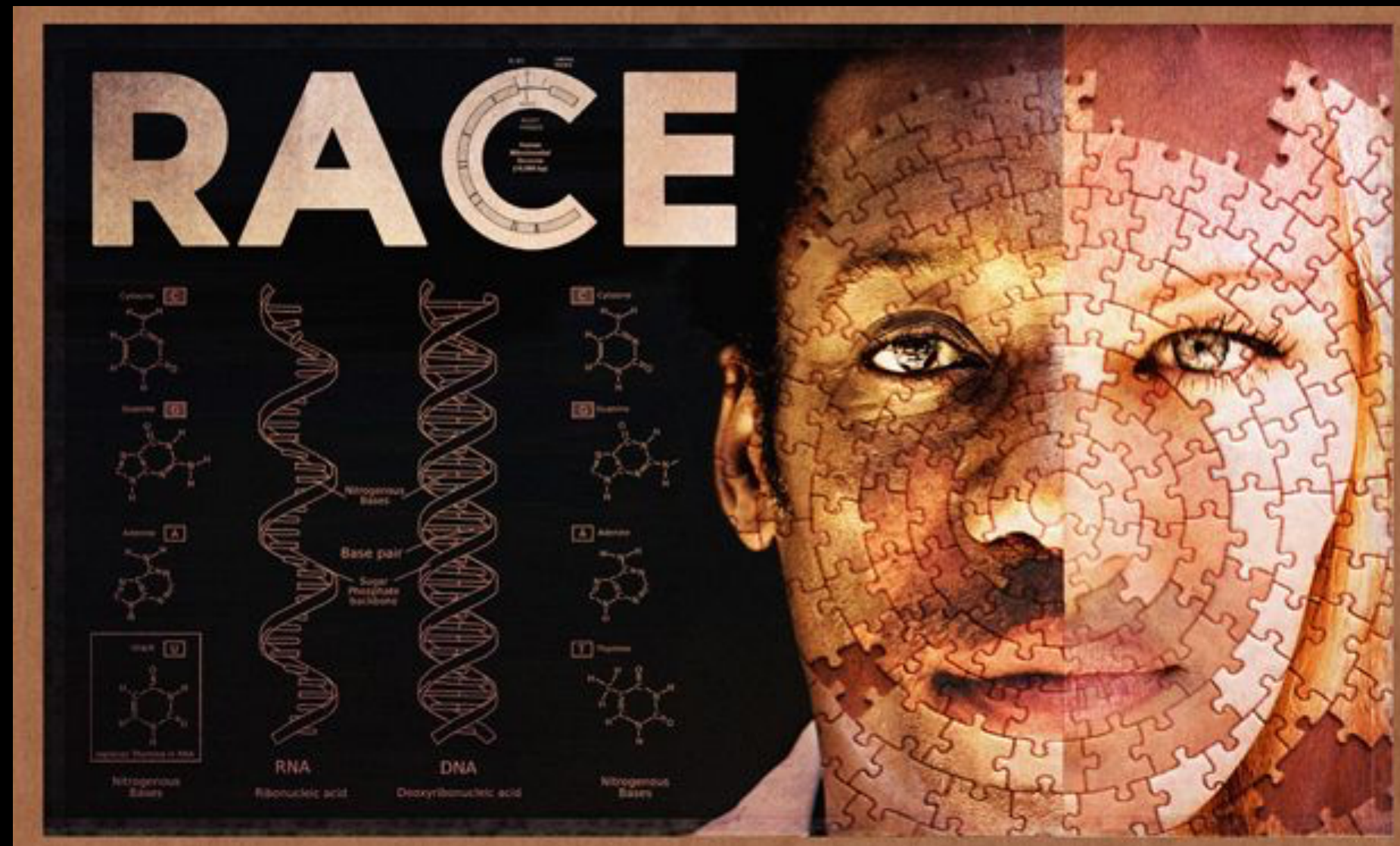
TWO POWERFUL DRIVERS

# Driver 1: They CHOOSE

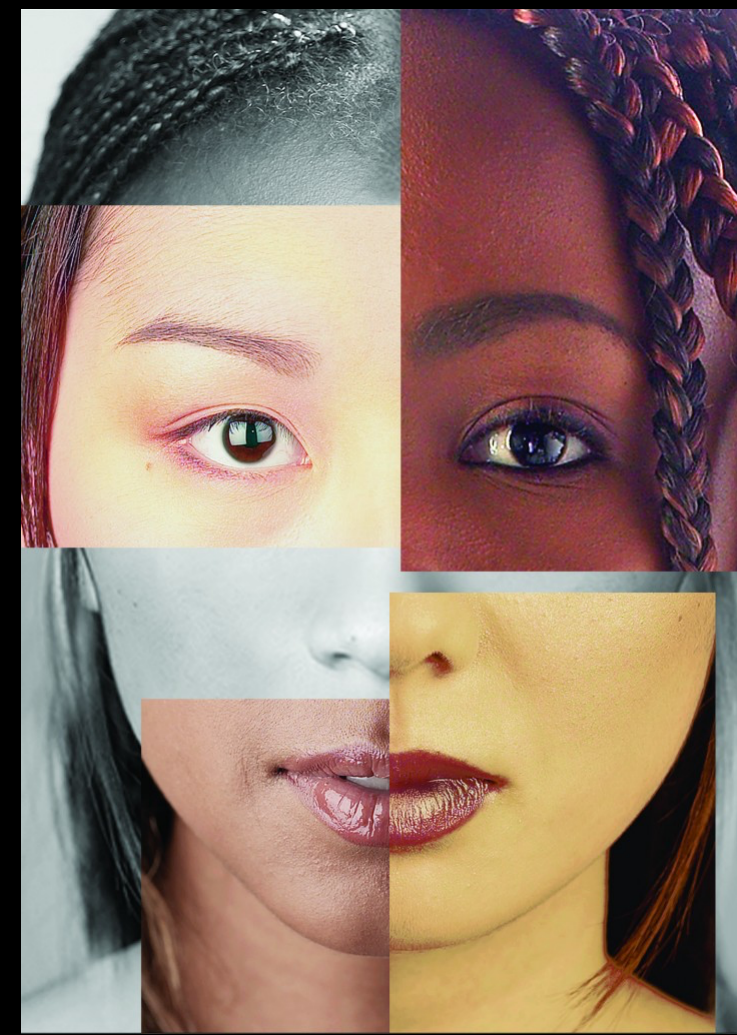
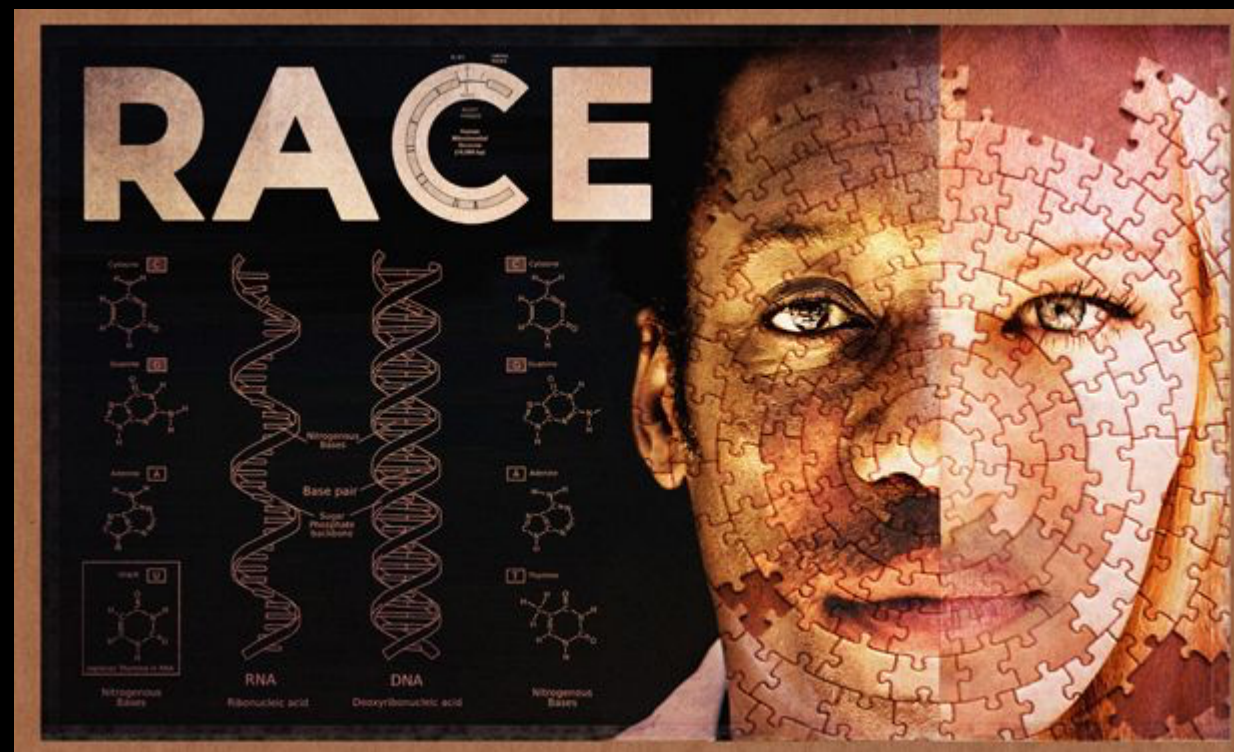




# Driver 2:







## 20 years of data:

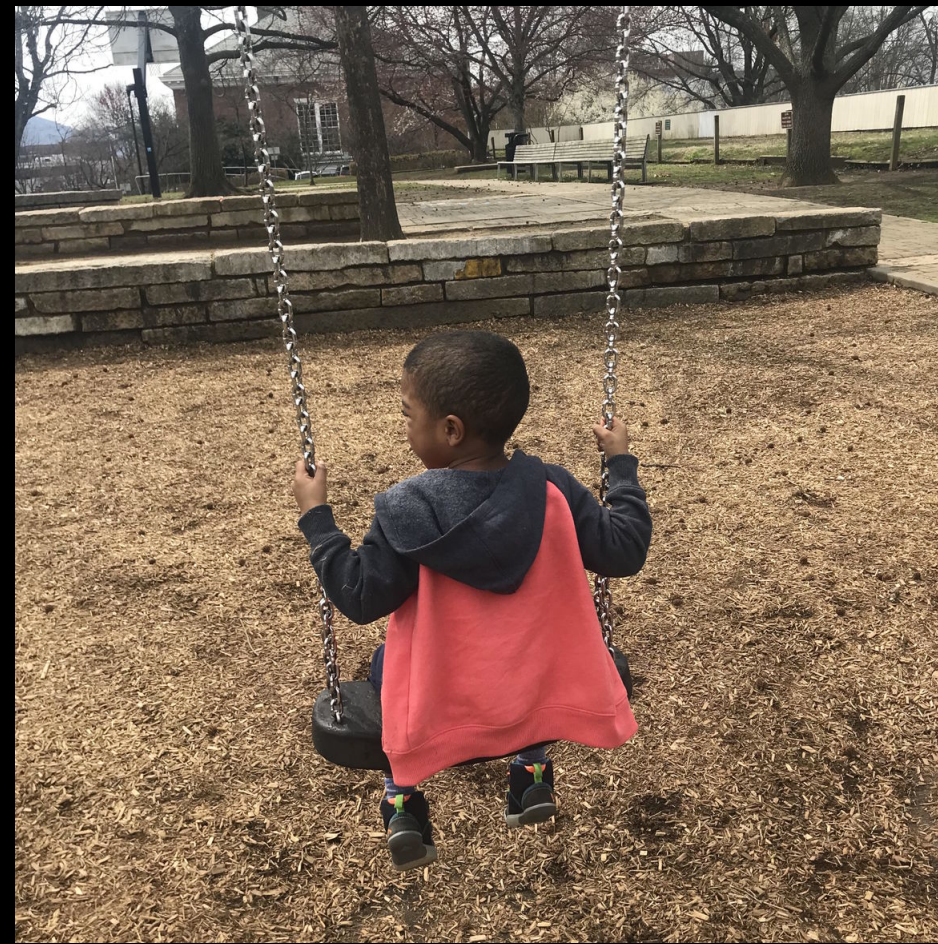
- Black children enter faster, penetrate the system faster, stay longer and exit with the worst outcomes
- Disproportionality is a fact & not an accident!

### Black Codes

- Mississippi “indenture” boys until 21, girls until 18
- South Carolina “court apprenticed”
- Color is not a proxy



# Implicit Bias



- DANGEROUS TO THEIR OWN CHILDREN
- DAMAGED
- UNTRUSTWORTHY
- TAKING ADVANTAGE
- DANGEROUS COMMUNITIES
- LETS SAVE THE CHILDREN





We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



## Toward a more perfect Union

- Choose to be an ally
- Find your voice
- Take a small risk, question
- Be bold, take action

the children we serve  
want to be like you & me  
LOVED, CHOSEN, ALLOWED

our history is clear  
Black people  
ARE NOT CHOSEN & ALLOWED



Black families  
are not a threat  
THEY LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

neglect is primary  
not  
ABUSE

poverty  
does not equal  
CHILD HARM



poverty  
does not mean  
TRAUMA

poor families  
love their  
CHILDREN

poor families  
enjoy deeply fulfilling  
lives



child welfare  
is not a solution for  
POVERTY

government & charity  
is never a substitute for  
FAMILY + LOVE + BELONGING

RELATIONSHIPS

heal

WITHOUT IT, ALL SOLUTIONS FAIL



# The Children's Village

*Keeping Children Safe and Families Together since 1851*

[childrensvillage.org](https://childrensvillage.org)

# Questions

Alliance for Early Success

# National Issues ► State Action

[www.earlysuccess.org/stateactioncalls](http://www.earlysuccess.org/stateactioncalls)

