

# Paws For Kids Steering Committee

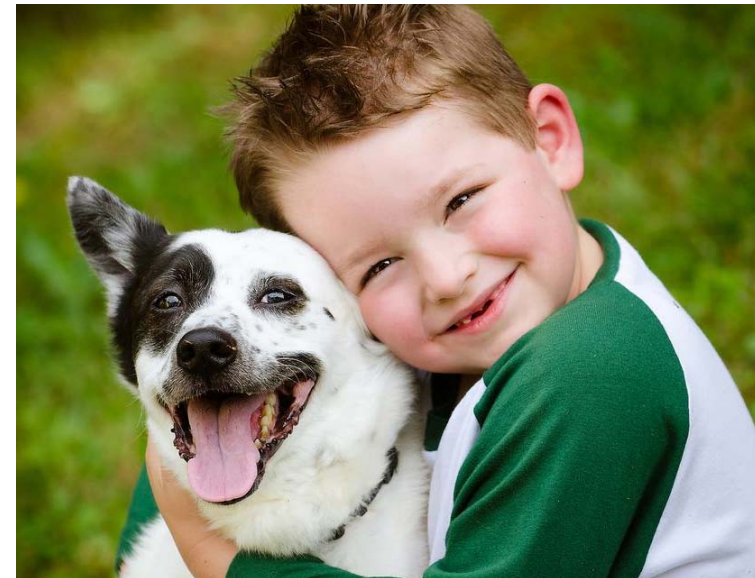
8/21/18



*A Partnership between the Department of Children and Families (DCF)  
& the Animal Advocacy Community to advance Animal Assisted  
Interventions (AAI) for DCF Children and support other Animal Advocacy Initiatives*

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
2. Paws For Kids purpose and objectives (5 min)
3. DCF Overview of work and mandates (5 min)
4. Paws for Kids areas of work (20)
5. Interactive Exercise (60 min)
6. Group Formation/Discussion (15 min)
7. Next Steps / Questions (5 min)



# Paws For Kids-Purpose/Todays objectives

Overarching goal: To increase child and animal well-being through education, cross-reporting, marketing, and animal supported therapeutic services for children with trauma.

Purpose: To assist in creating and expanding Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) services for DCF children and other animal advocacy related work.

## Today's Objectives:

- share information
- brainstorm ideas during interactive session
- Begin to develop structures and implementation plans for the 5 core areas.
- explore additional core areas we may be



# DCF Overview-Mission & Mandates

- DCF's mission is working together with families and communities for children who are healthy, safe, smart and strong.
- One of the nation's few consolidated child welfare agencies with a broad mandate that includes child protection, behavioral health, education and prevention services.
- DCF is organized into 6 geographic regions, comprised of 14 Area Offices. Each Region is headed by a Regional Administrator who oversees the daily operations of child protection, foster care and clinical teams (Regional Resource Groups/RRGs).
- DCF serves approximately 36,000 children and 15,000 families across its programs and service array. Of these families, there are 2,550 investigations and 1,850 family assessments underway on any given day.





# Paws for Kids-Areas of Work

1. DCF Staff and Community Provider education – cross reporting, animal therapy, etc.
2. Program Development – creating a DCF Credentialed Service category for AAI
3. Marketing and Communication – for existing and new services
4. Evaluation – measuring the impact of our work
5. Cross Reporting (DCF/Department of Agriculture) – where we can expand our partnership

## DCF Staff and Community Provider education – cross reporting, animal therapy, etc.

- DCF Academy of Workforce Development
- What education is needed for DCF staff?
- What education is needed for pet advocates?
- How should the education be delivered? (in person, online, webinar)



## Program Development – creating a DCF Credentialed Service category for AAI

- Credentialed Services History at DCF
- Current credentialed service categories
- Provider Agreements
- Creating a new credentialed service category for AAI
  - Qualifications
  - Registered pet therapy teams



# Marketing and Communication for existing & new services

- Purpose
- Paws for Kids Target Audience
- Developing a Marketing and Communication Plan to reach target audience





# Evaluation – measuring the impact of our work

- What are the positive outcomes we want to achieve for the 5 core areas of work?
- What does success look like?
- What are the mechanisms (tools) we will use measure whether or not the activities are working and making a difference?





# Interactive Session - Process and Time Breakdown

1. Each of the 5 poster papers contains focus area with the questions underneath.
2. Using the sticky notes and markers provided, visit each of the 5 stations and share your feedback/ideas under each of the questions. (**You will have 10 minutes for this section**)
3. Choose a station that you would like to assist with synthesizing the information from the sticky notes (**You will have 15 minutes for this section**)
4. Choose a reporter for your group and report out the information (**You will have 30 minutes for this section which equals to 6 minutes for each of the 5 teams**)



# Group Formation/Discussion

- Select a group that you would like to be part of to continue to flesh out the work in a particular core area.
- Even numbers per group if possible.
- Spend 10-15 minutes with your group to formulate recommendations for next steps and time frame to complete.
- Coordinate an additional meeting time to continue the work before the next steering committee meeting in October.
- Check in with Brandy (DCF intern) regarding the logistics.



# Next Steps

1. We will set up our next steering committee meeting in September.
2. We will send out meeting minutes by Friday 8/24/18.
3. We will share group recommendations with the larger Paws for Kids distribution group by Friday 8/24/18.
4. We will connect with each core group to assist in pulling together final recommendations.
5. We will share recommendations with DCF senior administrators to maintain investment and resolve barriers.