Portfolio Overview

- Course work
  - Service Learning
  - Social Welfare Policy
  - Methods of Social Work Research
  - Practice II
- Group dynamic change
- Over 225 volunteer hours
Portfolio Content

- 7 chapters
- 107 pages
Agency Analysis

- 1960 first children were moved into the home
- Staffing
- Qualifications for services
- Demographics
- Services provided
- Funding
Problem Statement

- Children’s homes are currently considered congregate care, which are defined as a restrictive care facility.
- Children are to be placed in the least restrictive environment possible, which is currently perceived to be family based care rather than children’s homes.
- The problem concerning congregate care is the lack of awareness and education about children’s homes and family-based foster care.
Research Plan

Research question:
What is the perception between children’s homes and family based foster homes when considering the placement of a child?

Hypotheses:
H₁: Majority of participants will consider children’s homes equal to family based foster care.
H₂: Child Protective Services (CPS) professionals will have an increased understanding of children’s homes.
H₃: Majority of participants will report a negative perception of children’s homes versus family based foster homes.

Objectives:
O₁: Educate and raise awareness to the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) about the components of children’s homes.
O₂: Evaluate the perception of children’s homes within the child placing community.
O₃: Assess and understand the basis of a professional’s perception of children’s homes.
Survey Tool

- Multi-method survey
  - 22 predeveloped questions
    - Demographic Questions
    - True/false
    - Open-ended questions
    - Likert scale questions
    - Qualitative questions
    - Quantitative questions
- Consent form
Literature Review

- 10 peer-reviewed articles
- Types of Studies:
  - 5 Qualitative
  - 2 Quantitative
  - 3 Mixed-methods
- Sample sizes
  - Range: 20-446
Perception of Congregate Care

- “Trauma systems therapy in residential settings: improving emotion regulation and the social environment of traumatized children and youth in congregate care” (Brown, McCauley, Navalta, & Saxe, 2013)
- “Moving away from congregate care: One state’s path to reform and lessons for the field” (Alpert & Meezan, 2012)
- “Risking connection trauma training: A pathway toward trauma-informed care in child congregate care settings” (Brown, Baker, & Wilcox, 2012)
- “Planning for permanency for youth in congregate care” (Freundlich & Avery, 2004)
- “Care or scare: The safety of youth in congregate care in New York City” (Freundlich, Avery, & Padgett, 2007)
- “Adolescents’ perspectives on placement moves and congregate settings: Complex and cumulative instabilities in out-of-home care” (Hyde & Kammerer, 2009)
Relationship between Public and Private Child Welfare Agencies

- “Collaboration, competition, and co-opetition: Interorganizational dynamics between private child welfare agencies and child serving sectors” (Bunger, Collins-Camargo, McBeath, Chuang, Pérez-Jolles, & Wells, 2014)
- “Perspectives of Foster Parents and Social Workers on Foster Placement Disruption” (Taylor & McQuillan, 2014)
- “Factors Influencing the Relationship Between Contract Providers and a State Funding Agency” (Watson, 2012)
- “Privatization and Performance-Based Contracting in Child Welfare: Recent Trends and Implications for Social Service Administrators” (Collins-Camargo, McBeath, & Ensign, 2011)
Policy Project

- Senate Bill 758 Section 12
- Advocating to meet the needs of not only the child, but also the agency

POLICY BRIEF
SENATE BILL 758 SECTION 12

Summary
Senate Bill 758 was implemented to develop a Child Protective Services (CPS) improvement plan by focusing on the quality of services provided to children and families. In regards to Senate Bill 758, specifically section 12, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is required to develop a pilot program to improve services to children and families, which includes case management services, permanency services, substitute care provider, and substitute care services.

This information was gathered from the AIFAMS Report, Senate Bill 758, & texforfamilies.org.
Policy Project

- Social Work Advocacy Day
- Legislative Communication
Policy Project

“Impacting Lives One Service At A Time”

- Rally
- Location and Time
- Guest Speakers
Research Project

- “What is the perception between children’s homes and family based foster homes when considering the placement of a child?”
- 66 Participants
- Convenience sampling; Snowball sampling
- Strengths/Limitations
- Ethics
Methodology

- Professionals who have had experience working with children
- Both male and female participants

Distributed to:
- Foster’s Home for Children
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Caring Hearts for Children
- Communities in Schools
- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Paluxy River Children’s Advocacy Center
- Pecan Valley
- The Women’s Center of Tarrant County
- Starry Counseling
- Multiple teachers at 3 different schools
Hypothesis 1 Results

- 5% (n=3) True
- 95% (n=63) False
Hypothesis 2 Results

CPS Professionals
- 25% (n=3) Accurate
- 75% (n=9) Non Accurate

Non CPS Professionals
- 30% (n=24) Accurate
- 70% (n=57) Non Accurate
Hypothesis 3 Results

- 17% (n=11) Children’s Home
- 83% (n=55) Family Based Foster Care
Implications for Social Work

**Micro**

Individuals and families of children in the foster care system

**Mezzo**

Social workers can educate the community on children’s homes

**Macro**

Social workers can use research to educate policy makers
Macro Project

- 10 Week Project Plan
- Weekly Updates in Class
- Meetings with Community Partner
- Budget
- Service Day
What we’ve learned....
Are there any questions?


