

Challenges Affecting The Care Of Children With High Needs And Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities

Presented to:

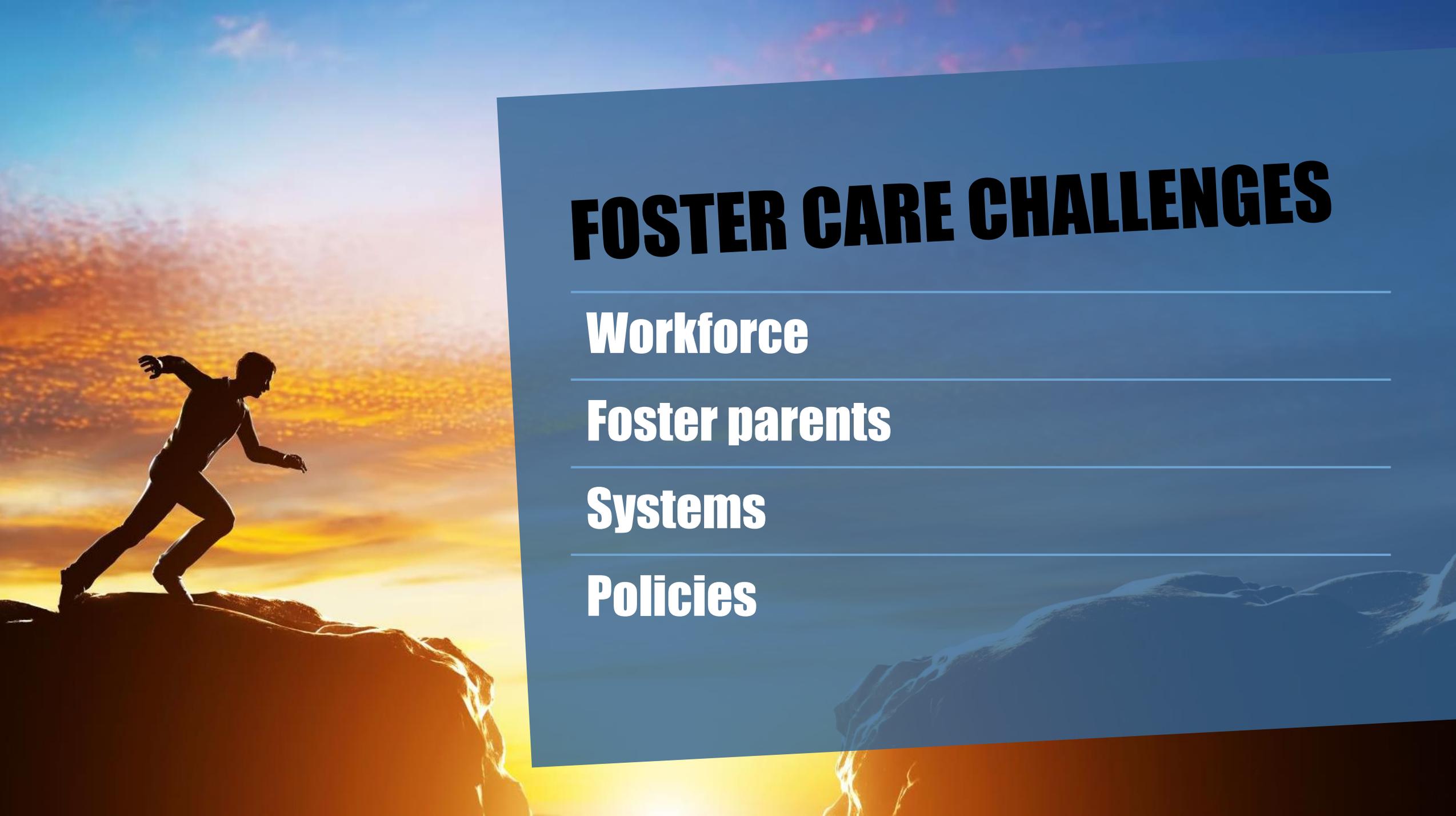
Chair Concannon and Members of the Special Committee on Foster Care Oversight

October 21, 2020



Keck Family

Birth, Adoptive and Foster Family

A silhouette of a person running on the edge of a cliff, set against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and blue tones. The person is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose, suggesting movement and challenge.

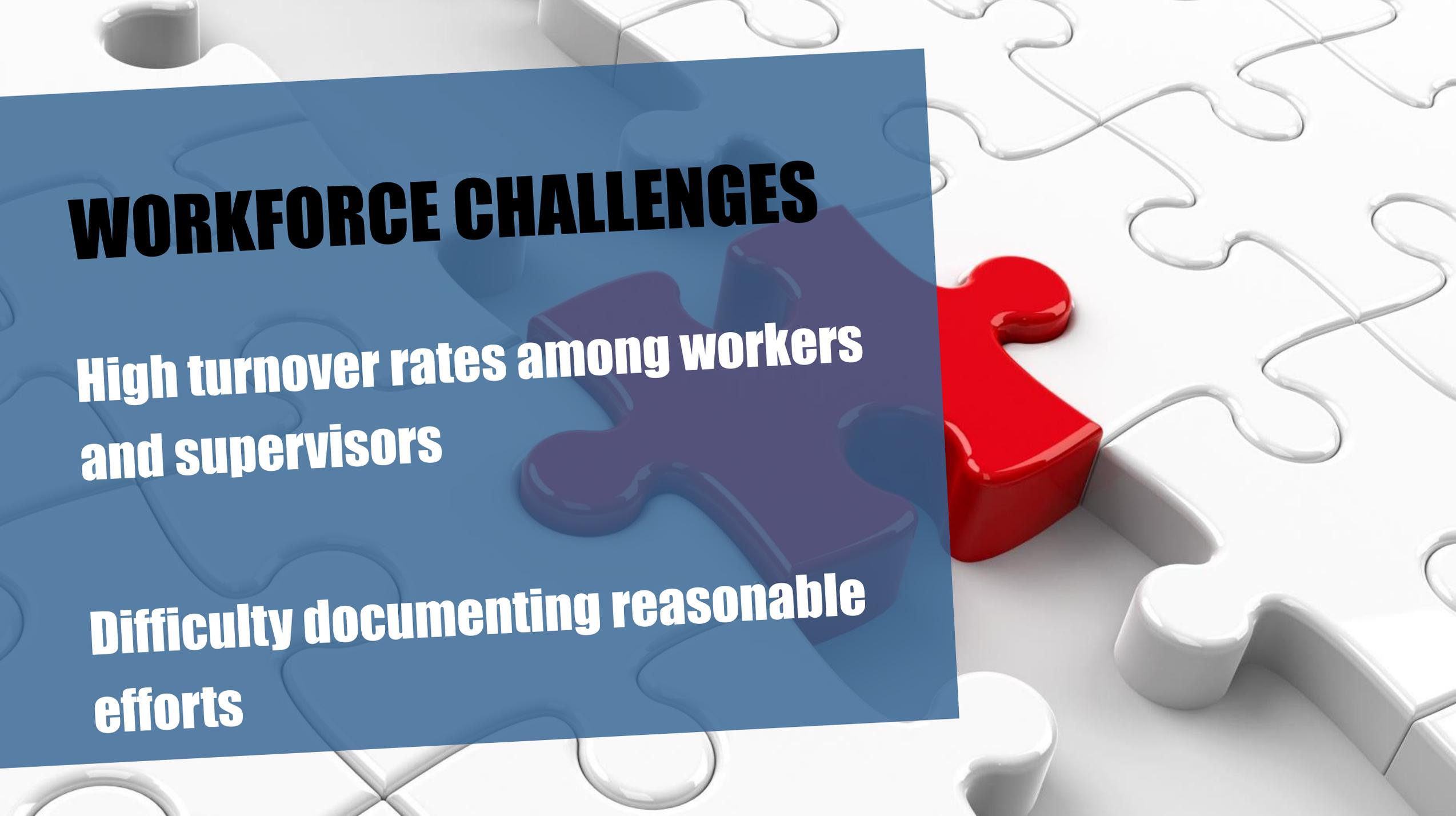
FOSTER CARE CHALLENGES

Workforce

Foster parents

Systems

Policies



WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

**High turnover rates among workers
and supervisors**

**Difficulty documenting reasonable
efforts**

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Workers are naïve to the skills and commitment needed to care for children with complex needs

Inadequate specialized training to assist workers understand unique needs of children with special needs

Workers untrained in support systems designed for people with IDD

Unable to help foster families navigate complex systems to secure and coordinate needed care and services

Foster Parent Challenges

**Inadequate/no
specialized training**

**Rates are not
commensurate with
skills needed of foster
parents and the needs
of more complex
children**

**Expectations of Foster
Families are
unrealistic, and
appreciation is lacking**

FOSTER PARENT CHALLENGES

No options for respite due to very limited number of specialized resource homes

Expertise of foster parents with specialized skills is discounted

Foster Parents are not given necessary information about children on intake

In difficult cases, foster parents may be used as scapegoats or accused of sabotage when desired outcomes are not achieved

SYSTEMS CHALLENGES

Services are in silos

Very limited mental health services available

**Lack of care options for children dually diagnosed with
IDD and Behavioral Health needs**

SYSTEMS CHALLENGES

**Lack of transition options
and planning for kids with
IDD, medical, and behavioral
issues aging out of care**

**Duplicative, thus
overwhelming oversight**

POLICY CHALLENGES

The best interest of high risk children with complex medical needs and their potential death must be the first consideration when severing parental rights and documenting reasonable efforts. Currently, the rights of parents supersede the health risks to the medically fragile child.

POLICY CHALLENGES

Agency policies and procedures do not allow flexibility in providing continuity of care for children aging out of care

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Develop specialized teams within each contracted agency to ensure continuity of services and staff with focused training on systems and resources available to children with IDD, complex medical, and behavioral health needs

Appoint a highly knowledgeable/trained state staff that works with each of the specialized teams to provide support, guidance, and oversight

Develop a cross agency team of decision makers from KDHE, KDADS, DCF and the MCO's to collaborate on high needs cases to ensure children's needs are met through interagency agreements or braided funding options

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Develop a licensing structure for a medical group homes

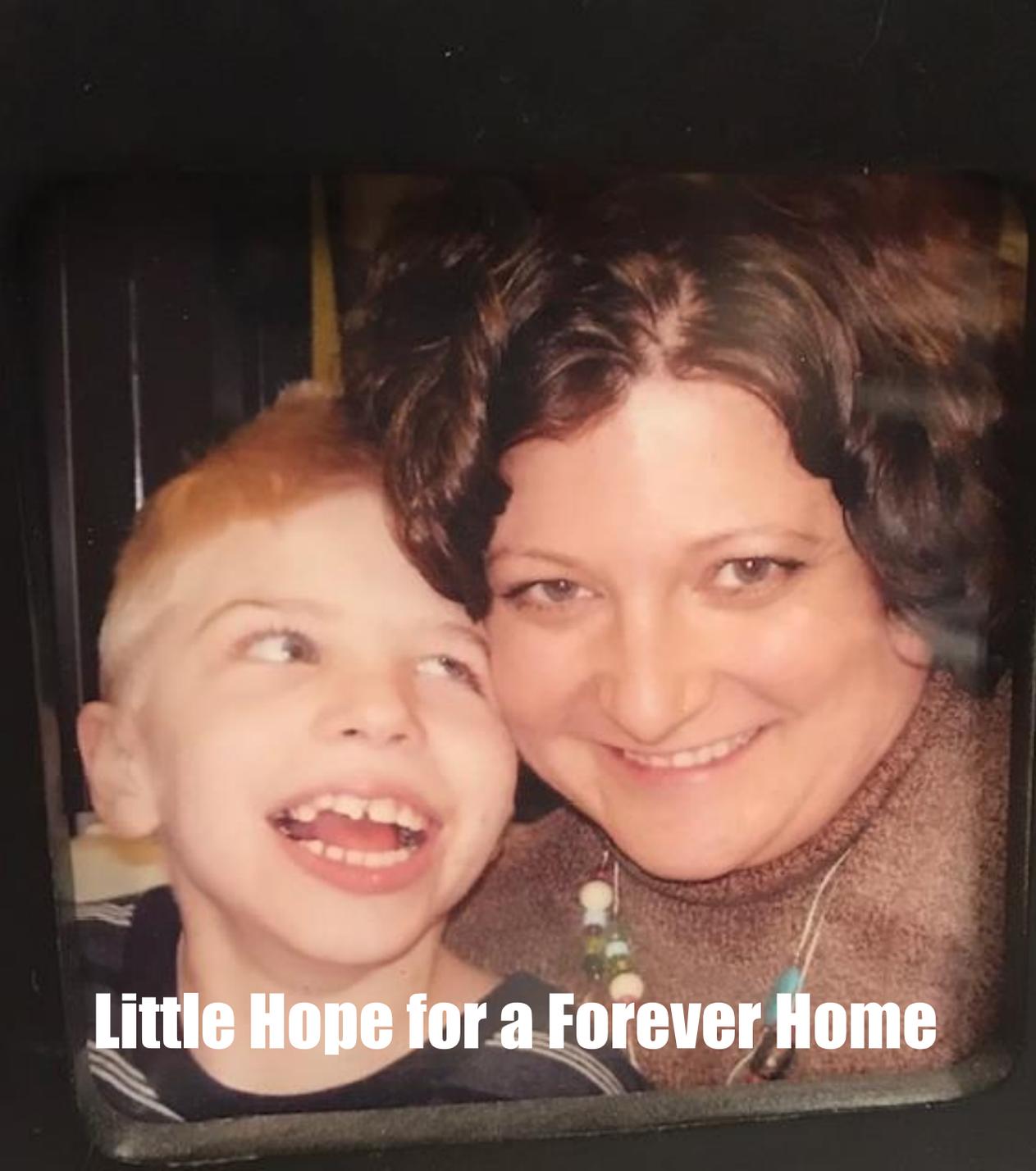
Reestablish continuum of care options to support children with IDD and Behavioral Health Needs

Eliminate the conflict of interest with MCO's and reestablish Community Mental Health Centers as the gatekeepers to perform screenings for PRTF

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Develop or reestablish professional foster homes for children with IDD/Behavioral Health needs

Convene a group of foster families who specialize in high needs children with IDD and complex medical/behavioral needs to review multiple agency policies and make recommendations for areas that could be streamlined and improved to better serve our children and improve foster home retention.



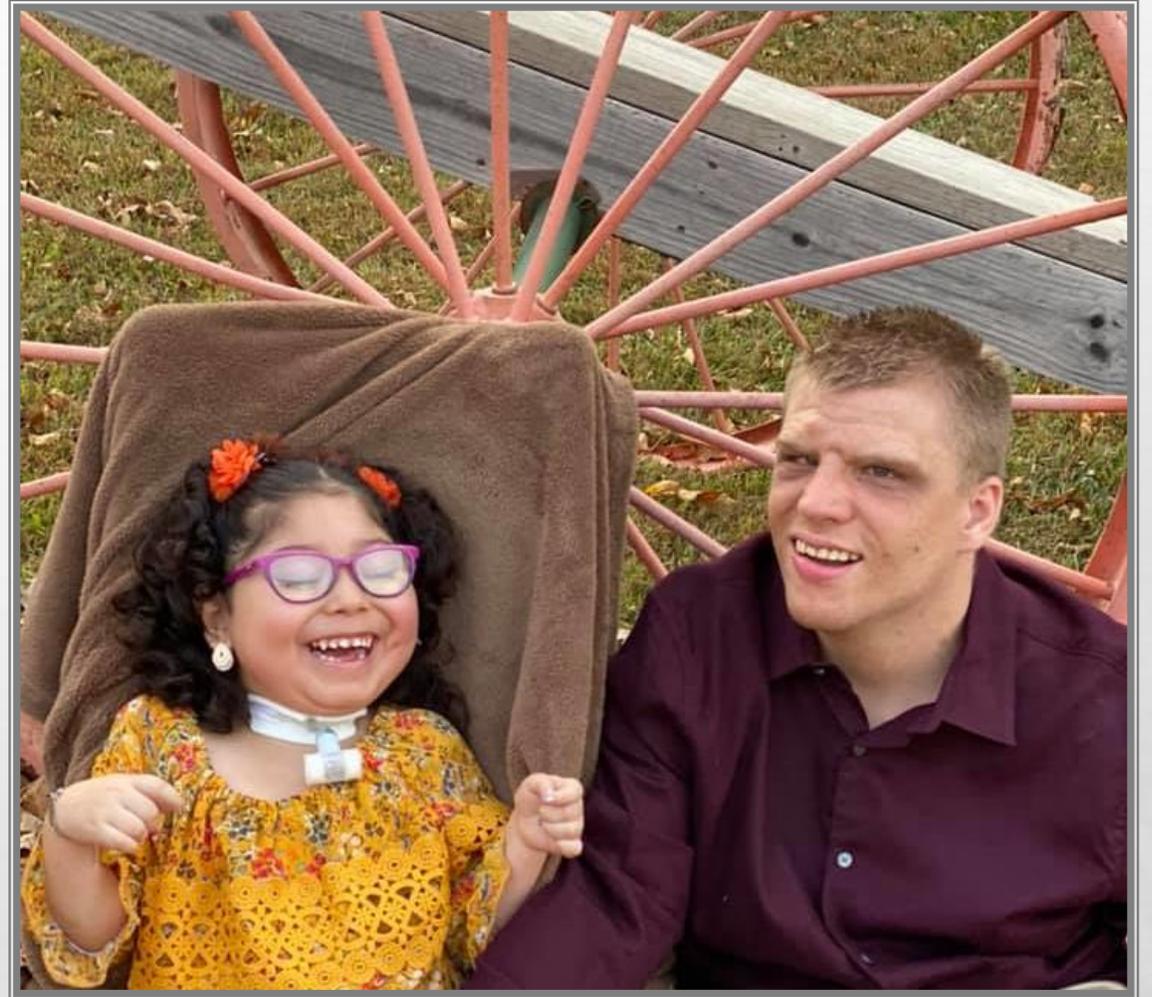
Little Hope for a Forever Home



Adored Member of a Family



Poor Prognosis



Defying the Odds

**THANK YOU FOR
EXPLORING
WAYS TO
IMPROVE
SYSTEMS THAT
AFFECT SO
MANY
VULNERABLE
KANSANS!**

