

“Preventing problems before they become crises is the most effective and cost-effective way to address the needs of troubled families and vulnerable children.”

National Commission on Children



**Keeping Families
Together and
Children Safe**

Caught in the System

At the end of FY 1990:

- 67 percent of foster children had been away from their homes for one year or more.
- 43 percent had been in placement for more than two years.
- three out of five children had been placed in more than one setting during their stay.
- 24 percent had lived in three to five different foster homes.
- 27.5 percent had been moved to two different foster homes.



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Intensive Family Preservation Services are:

RESPONSIVE

- within 24 hours of referral

INTENSIVE

- up to 20 hours per week of services from workers who see only two families at a time

HOME-BASED

- services delivered in family's home and community

TIME-LIMITED

- four to six weeks of intensive crisis intervention services

ACCESSIBLE

- workers on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



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Intensive Family Preservation Services are:

GOAL-ORIENTED

- specific goals developed with family to address problems that led to crisis

SKILL-BUILDING

- teaches positive, practical ways to resolve family problems

FAMILY-CENTERED

- works with all members of the family

COMPREHENSIVE

- combines “hard” and “soft” services, meets family’s goals

THOROUGH

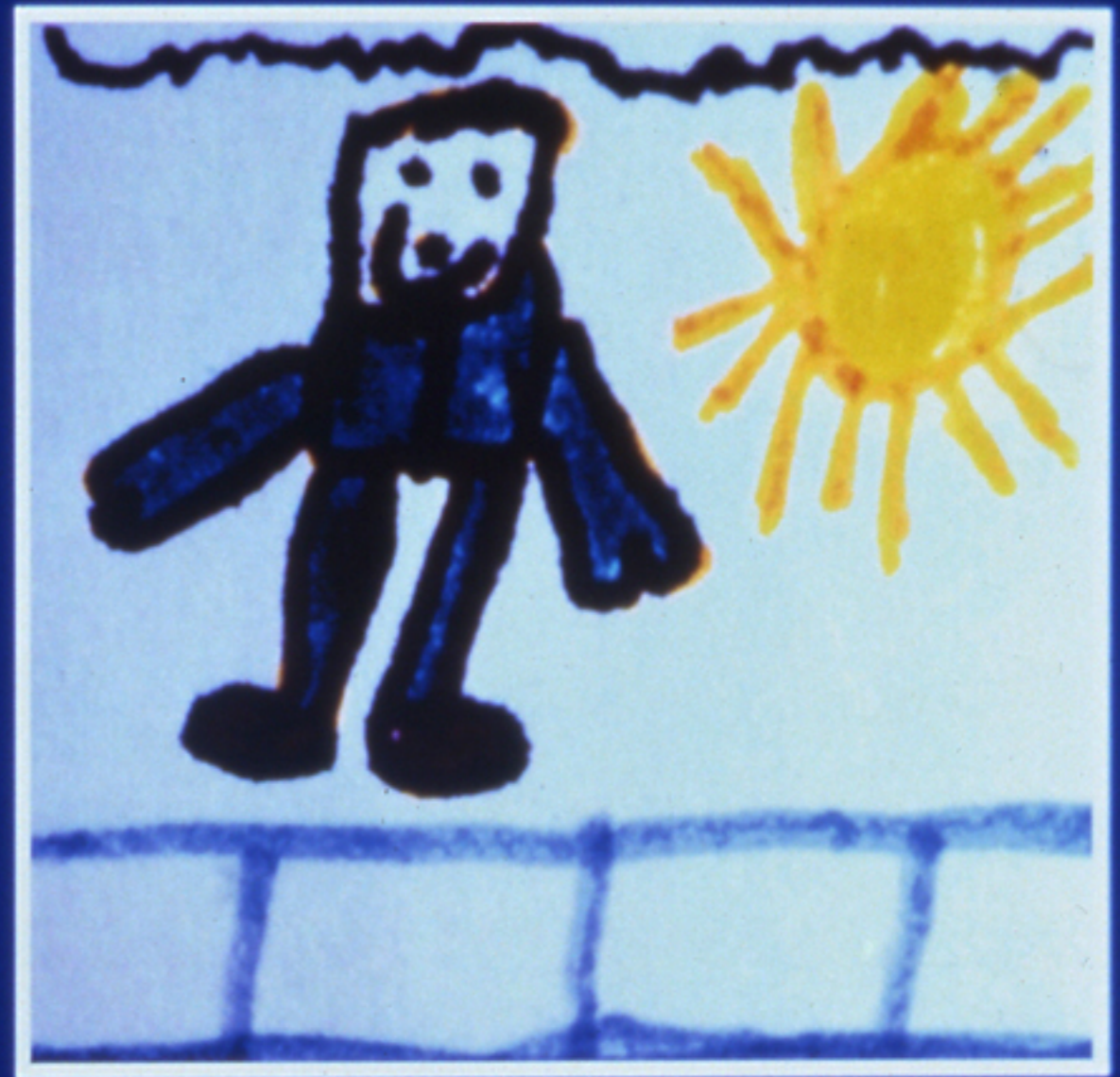
- family referred to follow-up community support services as needed



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Values and Beliefs

- Safety is our first concern.
- Children need families.
- Children need responsible parents.
- Even troubled families can change.
- A crisis is an opportunity for change.
- Every family has strengths.
- Our clients are our colleagues.
- We must respect families' values and beliefs.
- It is our job to instill hope.



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Service Delivery Contrasts

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

- Large caseloads, 12 to 50
- Focus on individuals
- Concentrate on immediate symptom
- Soft services only
- No special use of crisis
- Worker directs solutions to family problems

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

- Small caseloads, 2 to 3
- Focus on all family members
- Concentrate on underlying skills and interactions
- Blend hard and soft services
- Use crisis as teachable moment
- Family directs solutions, learns to solve own problems

Service Delivery Contrasts

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

- Services in office
- Waiting list
- “50-minute” hour
- Weekly or less
- Business-only hours
- Indefinite duration

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

- Services in family’s home
- Immediate response
- As long a session as needed
- Frequent - often daily
- 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
- Short-term, 4 to 6 weeks

Measuring Results

OBJECTIVE CRITERIA:

- Safety
- Prevention of Unnecessary Placement
- Improved Family Functioning
- Cost-effectiveness

SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA:

- Family Satisfaction
- Satisfaction of Referral and Funding Sources
- Opinion of Services Community
- Public Support



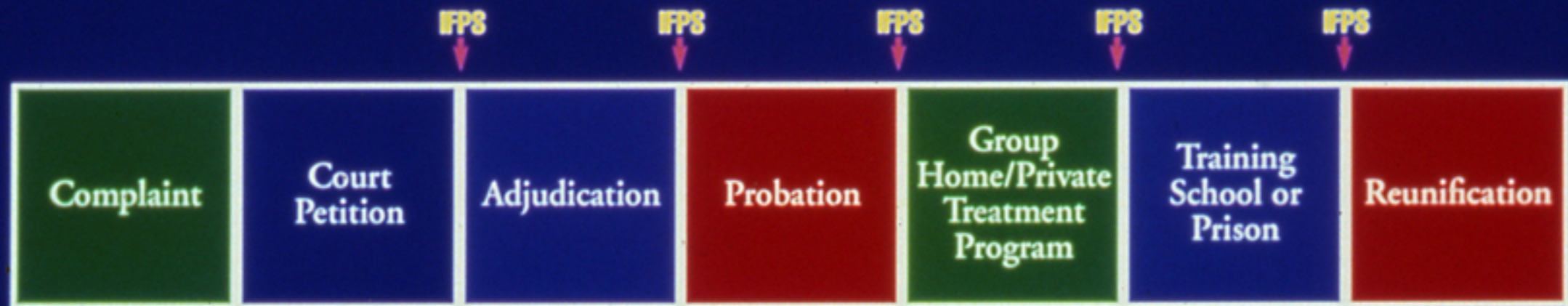
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IFPS and the Range of Services

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM



JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

