

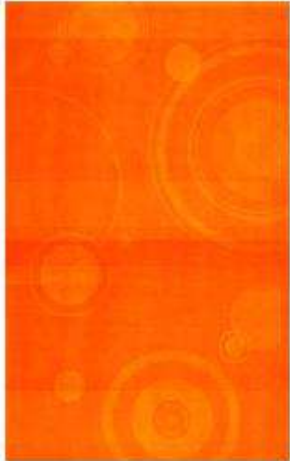


Illinois Department of Children & Family Services



Differential Response

Pathways to Strengthening & Supporting Families
Womazetta Jones, Project Director



What is Differential Response (DR)

- ❖ An alternative means of responding to allegations of child maltreatment.
- ❖ Approximately 19 states are using a statewide DR system or have implemented DR within some counties



Criteria For DR In Illinois

- ❖ Names and current address of the family are known;
- ❖ Alleged offenders are the parents, legal guardian, or responsible relative;
- ❖ No prior indicated reports of abuse and/or neglect or;
- ❖ Prior indicated reports have been expunged;
- ❖ No pending investigations;
- ❖ Alleged victim (s) or other siblings or household members are not currently in the care or custody of DCFS or wards of the court;
- ❖ Protective custody has not been taken or required in the current or any previous case;
- ❖ Allegations include, individuality or combination

Inadequate Food

Inadequate Shelter

Inadequate Clothing

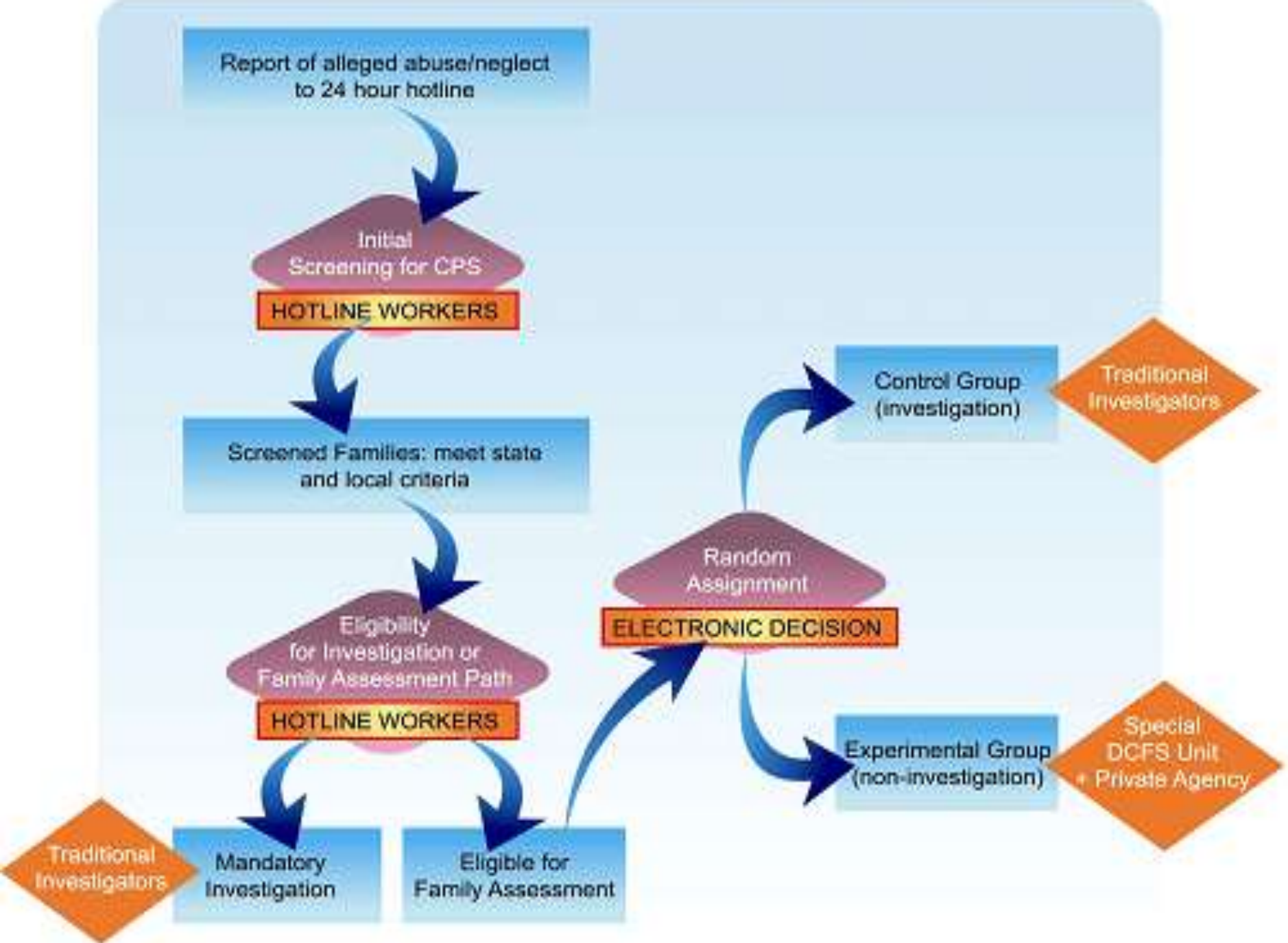
Inadequate Supervision

Environmental Neglect

Medical Neglect

Mental & Emotional Impairment

Risk of Harm Due to Neglect




Staffing

Public Sector: DR Specialist (DCFS)- Assess Safety

- Memorandum Of Understanding with AFSCME
- 30 DR Specialists
- 6 Supervisors

Private Sector: Strengthening and Supporting Family (SSF) Worker- Change Agent

- 13 Private Agencies with DR Contracts
 - 13 SSF Supervisors
 - 40 SSF Workers
 - Caseload Ratio 12:1
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Strengthening and Supporting Families (SSF) Staff: Agents of Change

- Initial Visit- Paired Team
- Evidence base practices
 - Six Protective Factors
 - Recovery Coach Model
 - Home Visiting Model
- Not a referral and linkage program
- Short term and intensive
- Worker is the service

Training

Overview Training

- = Working with deaf and hard of hearing
- = History of DR
 - Ecomap/Genogram
 - Engagement
 - Sexual harassment
- = CERAP
 - Early childhood intervention
- = Domestic violence
 - Procedures & Instruments
 - Developmental disabilities
- = Advocacy
 - Burgos
- = Conflict Resolution
- = Child and family meetings
- = Supervision
 - Program Evaluation

How are we helping to strengthen and support families

Addressing the Needs identified by the Family

- Listening
- Mentoring
- Nutrition
- Cash Assistance
- Parent Café
- Partnering With Parent (PWP)
- Engagement
- Counseling
- Transportation
- Homemaker
- Advocacy
- Budgeting

AND MORE

Statistical Data

November 1, 2010- March 31, 2012

- Almost 3000 Case Have Been Randomized to DR
- Less then 300 Families Have Declined Services
- Approximately 550 Cases Have Redirected to Investigations
 - Did not fit the criteria for DR
 - Very few were re-directed due to safety concerns

What's Next

