

Virginia Children's Services System Transformation



Virginia's Children's Services System Transformation

Virginia's child-serving agencies are improving the way we help at-risk children and their families to achieve:

Success in life;

Safety for children and communities;

Life in the community;

Family based placements; and

Life-long family connections.

Council on Reform (CORE)

- Partnership since December, 2007 with thirteen targeted localities to develop a shared vision for Children's Services and implement best practices at the state and local level
- **Membership:** Representatives from thirteen geographically diverse localities:
 - Charlottesville, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Henrico, Newport News, Norfolk, Prince William, Richmond City, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Virginia Beach and Washington County
 - These localities account for almost 50% of statewide foster care population
- Workgroups are focused on the development of a Practice Model and implementation of "Building Blocks" of Transformation
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation has been providing extensive financial and consultative assistance in this work.

In Virginia:

- As of April 4, 2009 only 67% of youth in foster care were discharged to permanent placements
- 33% of foster care youth are not in family based placements
- About 52% of teens initial placements were into group care settings
- About 26% of all youth in foster care were served in group settings
- In 2008, approximately 60% of CSA expenditures were used to support group placements
- In 2008, approximately 11% of CSA expenditures were used to support community based wrap around services

Original Transformation Goals

As initial measures of the success of the Transformation, we have focused on the following outcomes:

Permanency:

- Increasing the number of youth who exit foster care to permanency
- Decreasing the amount of time it takes those youth to exit the foster care system to permanency

Family-Based Care:

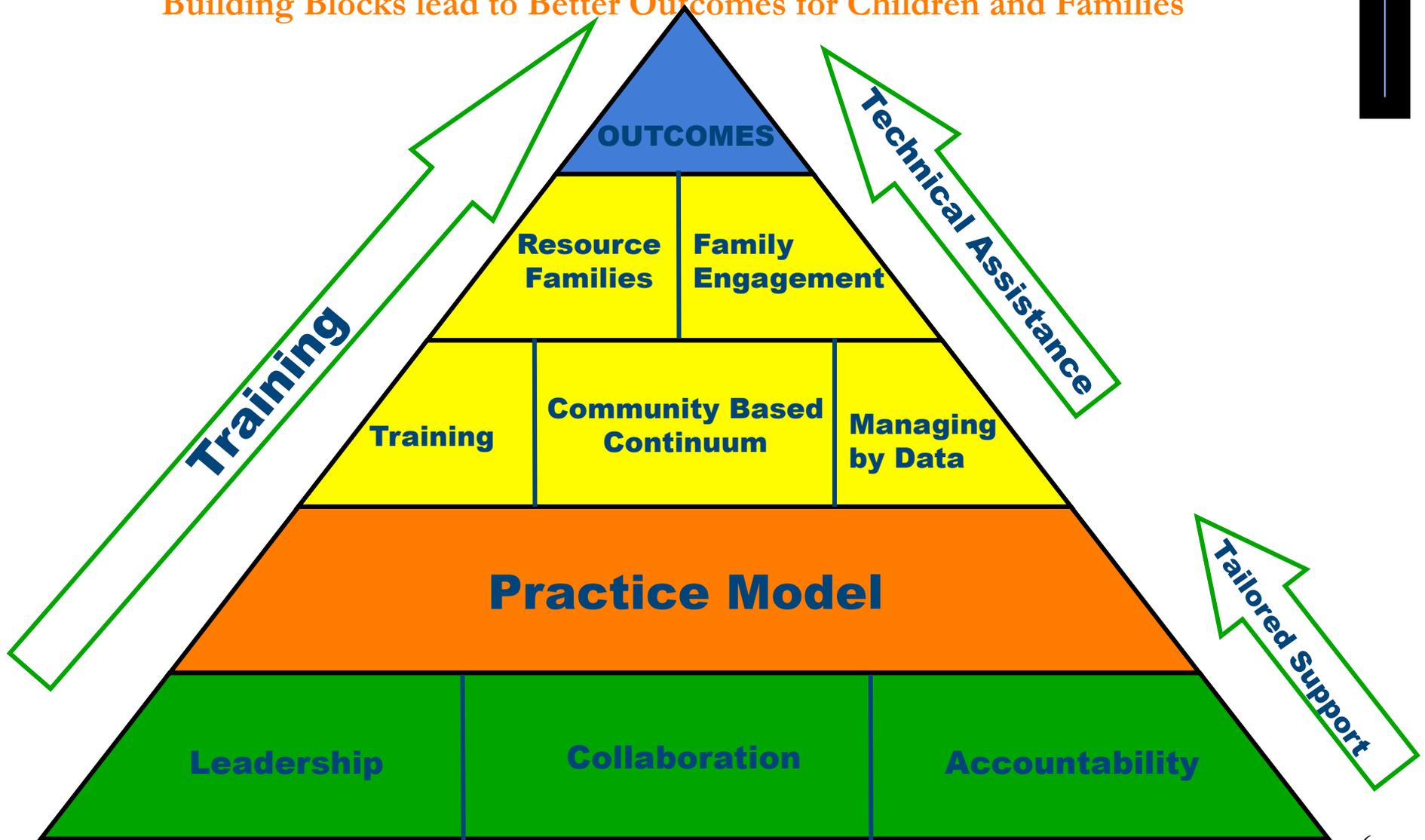
- Increasing the number of youth entering family-based care
- Increasing the number of youth entering kinship care placements

Group Care Reduction:

- Decreasing the number of youth in group care
- Decreasing the length of time youth spend in group care

2009 Strategy for Change:

Transformation Training, TA and Targeted Support built on the Practice Model and Building Blocks lead to Better Outcomes for Children and Families

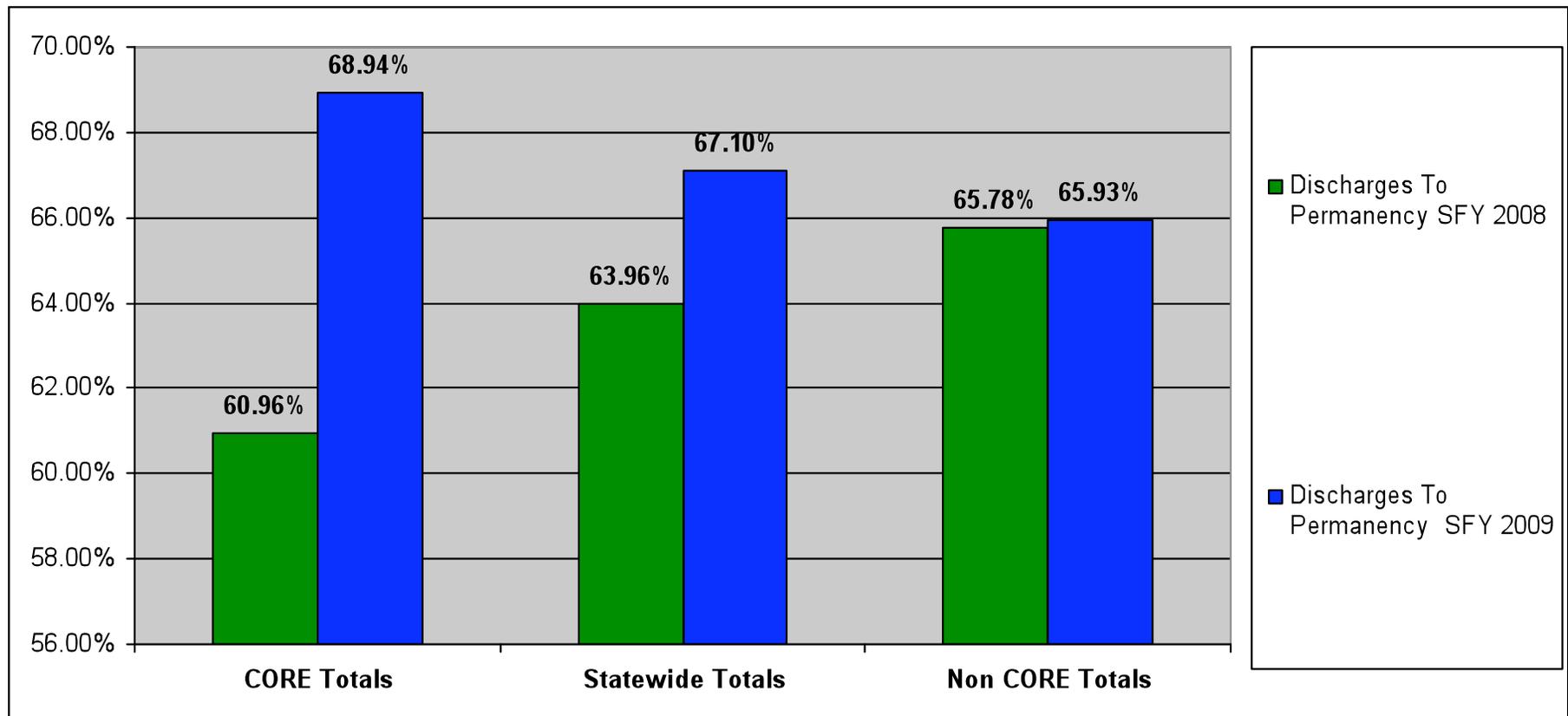


Draft Possible Outcomes

- **Success in life**
 - School performance
 - Truancy
 - Functioning level
- **Safety for children and communities**
 - Recidivism rates
 - Drug and alcohol use
- **Life in the community**
 - Availability of community based services
 - Out of community and/or state placements
 - Children who enter foster care remaining in their community school
- **Family based placements**
 - Family based placements
 - Group care placements
- **Life-long family connections**
 - Discharges to permanency
 - Time to discharge

Discharges to Permanency:

Discharges to Permanency have increased in CORE localities and statewide as a percentage of the total placement population



Group Care Reductions:

Statewide there has been a 26.85% decrease in the group care population.
 CORE agencies have seen a 35.2% decrease in the use of group care.

