



PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE[®]

CHILD WELFARE VISION

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Invest in Whole Families

- Children are safer with their families
- Reclaiming systems to support families and shrink the foster system
- Families should be honored, respected, and supported
- We should have a whole family focus

Focus on Family Integrity

- No more youth aging out
- No stranger care; rely on relative care
- Eradicate unfair timelines
- Normalized family time
- Disrupt the foster system

Be Equitable

- Reduce racism and inequities
- No disproportionality in the Foster System
- End systems of oppression by supporting racial and criminal justice reform

Shift Power to Families

- Human-centered design
- Create space for transformational power to families
- Accountability structure for those served
- Family co-design and accountabilities are the norm

Define and Measure Well-Being

- Ability to measure well-being
- Shared well-being measures

End Unnecessary Separation

- Community-based supports are the norm
- Primary prevention focus
- Get to families sooner
- Proactive supportive community networks
- Needed resources readily available
- Inform families of support
- More individualized home-based providers
- Innovative prevention services
- Far less family surveillance and control
- Remove the stigma of needing help

Create a Flexible Financing Model to Support Families

- Evidence-based resource allocation
- Innovative financing model to drive outcomes

Build a Model for Generating and Using Evidence

- Family guided and built and utilized
- Tipping point of research in jurisdictions
- Demonstrated proof of concept

Replace the Current System with Community Support for All Families

- Integrated human services delivery
- More innovation
- Universal support
- New evidence-based primary prevention models



CHILD WELFARE **VISION** STRATEGIES



INVEST IN LIVED EXPERTISE

We bring lived expertise to our work intentionally to keep PK focused on outcomes, impact, family integrity, and family justice.



GENERATE THE EVIDENCE

We are investing in our ability to continue to improve on tracking and analyzing the data to know what works and what doesn't.



HARNESS MOMENTUM

We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to test our approaches, and help our clients redirect resources to prevention and family integrity.



PROMOTE OUR VISION

We are not afraid to articulate our vision loud and clear, and find key ways to advocate for the change we want to see.



DEMONSTRATE A NEW WAY

FIJ Works at PK is committed to creating a new approach to child welfare, replacing it as we know it, and demonstrating it works.



RELENTLESSLY PROMOTE EQUITY

We are relentlessly and consistently identifying concrete strategies to advance and operationalize equity at our firm and on our projects.



IMPLEMENTATION FOCUS

We don't just want to talk about the change we want to see, we want to use implementation science to realize the vision.



MOBILIZE OUR PARTNERS

We want to partner and invest in colleagues and organizations that are aligned with our values and this 10-year vision.



INVEST IN LEADERSHIP

We believe the change in child welfare is not possible without a bold shift in leadership focused on honoring the power of families and communities.

ASK ABOUT
Family Integrity
& Justice



FIJW.pubknow.com

Learn more about our Child Welfare vision and strategies from our experts.



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Purpose

The purpose of the Family Integrity and Justice Works (FIJ Works) at Public Knowledge® (PK) is to catalyze and take bold action toward creating a new approach to child welfare that honors the power of families and communities. FIJ Works' effort focuses exclusively on creating a replacement for child welfare as we know it in demonstration sites across the country rather than improving existing systems that were never designed to be supportive to families.

The change we are seeking

There are two overriding goals of the FIJ Works at Public Knowledge®. The first is preventing the need for families to ever make formal contact with the child welfare system. The second is to radically change the experience for those children and families who must interact with the system.

In order to realize these goals, there are certain activities and characteristics of the existing child welfare system that must be replaced. Continuing to improve and hone the current system does not address the fundamental changes that are needed – replacement with more informed and humanitarian approaches is essential.

Demonstration sites

Local communities, counties, or states that have value alignment with our vision, are committed to radically advancing the power of families and communities in caring for their children, and are committed to the hard work required to replace their current system are encouraged to reach out to us to evaluate readiness for a FIJ Works Demonstration Site.

REPLACEMENT CHART

Goal 1: Prevent the need for families to ever make formal contact with the child welfare system.

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE END

Difficult to access services that require a finding of neglect before they work with families

Menu-style, federally approved, categorical services like the FFPSA Clearinghouse

Lack of preventative legal advocacy on civil legal issues that threaten family stability

Absence of high-quality legal representation for parents and children pre-petition

WHAT WE WANT TO REPLACE IT WITH

Community-based services for ALL

Robust networks of primary prevention, family preservation, and support services

Preventative, wholistic, legal advocacy for families to promote stability and integrity

High-quality legal representation for all parents and children, based on their expressed wishes, and in place before a petition is filed



Goal 2: Radically change the experience for the families and children who must interact with the system.

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE END	WHAT WE WANT TO REPLACE IT WITH
Massive, difficult to access service contracts that are paid for time, not outcomes	Community-based services paid for outcomes, such as family resource centers, family support centers, or family engagement centers
Absence of high-quality legal representation for parents and children, or CASAs serving as legal representation	High-quality legal representation for all parents and children, based on their expressed wishes, with a preference for interdisciplinary representation from legal teams
Reliance upon stranger care and congregate care	Keep children at home, or use kinship care when absolutely necessary; support the kin caregivers
Requirements for drug testing in absence of danger and history of drug misuse	Holistic healing plans rooted in what we know about treatment and recovery
Use of foster care as a substitute for parents	Foster care as a support for the entire family, including family time and co-parenting
Adoption incentives	Incentives for family integrity and the reduced need for foster care and adoption
Reasonable efforts judicial determinations	Active efforts supported by specific evidence on the record
Agency driven policy and decision making	Parent-driven policy and decision making
Parents left to navigate the system on their own	Community-based peer partners for all parents



WHAT WE WANT TO SEE END

Boilerplate agency designed caseplans

CASAs as child advocates or replacement for legal representation

Youth aging out of foster care without permanency or with APPLA as the permanency goal

Requirements to TPR at time-limited junctures in ASFA that have nothing to do with the needs of the family

Aggravated circumstances provisions in ASFA allowing TPR without making active or reasonable efforts

Concurrent planning for children in foster care

"Foster to adopt" placements

WHAT WE WANT TO REPLACE IT WITH

Parent and youth-driven caseplans

CASAs as family advocates

No youth aging out without permanency, with APPLA as a permanency goal, or without ties with family

Prohibition on TPR if parents are in treatment, if one parent is incarcerated, or in instances where a parent can continue to be a meaningful part of a child's life

Clearly defined and limited instances in which efforts to reunify are not required, excluding previous TPRs and substance exposed newborns

Commitment to and requirements for active efforts to achieve reunification

Ensure foster parents know they are temporary resource parents and are in place to support reunification if at all possible