

Connecticut
Department of Children and Families
Enhancing Community Supports and
Safely Reducing Congregate Care

Key Indicators

January, 2011

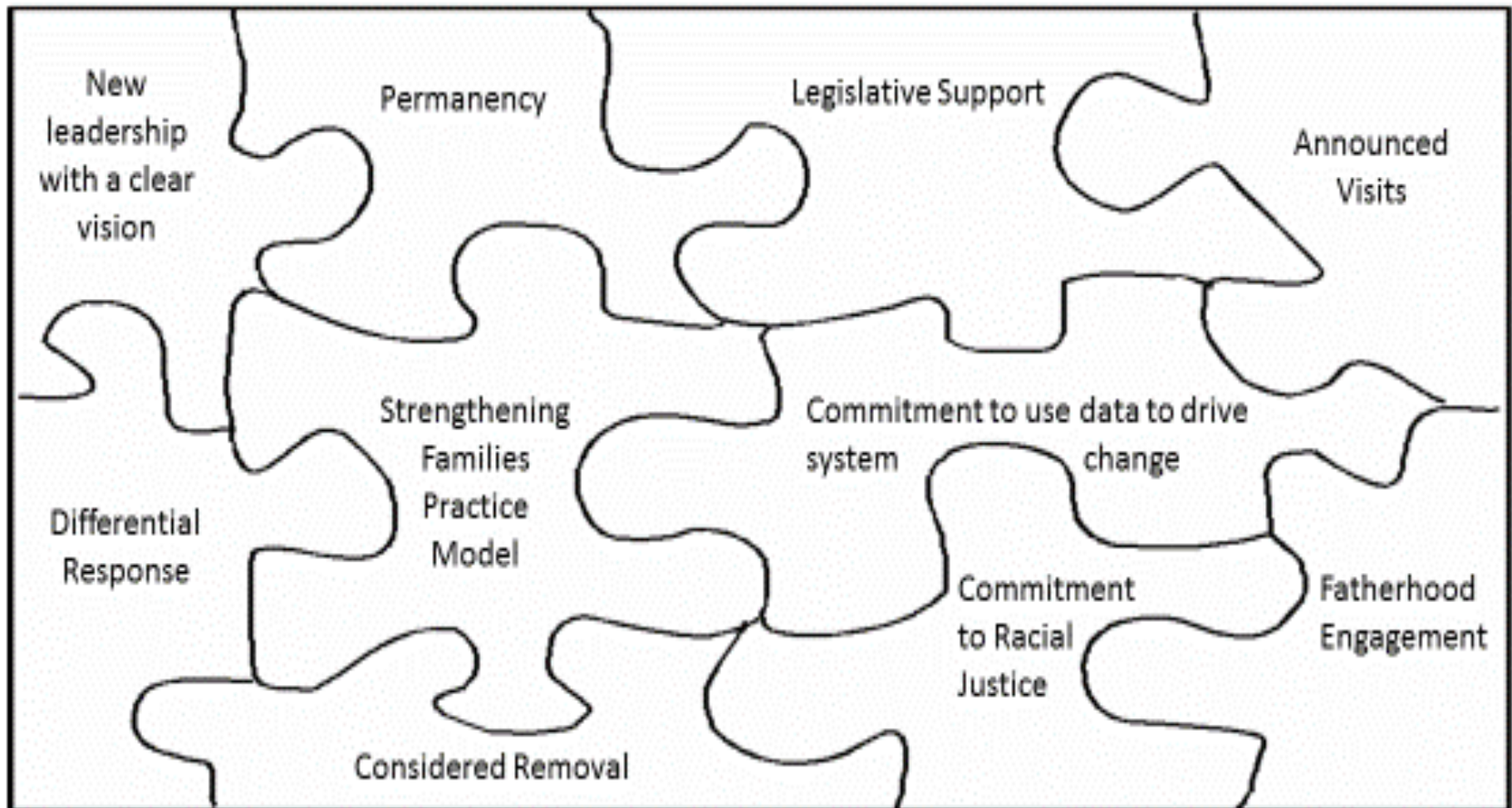
- 4,900 youth in care
- 30% of youth in congregate
- 364 youth in OOS programs
- 200 youth <12 in congregate



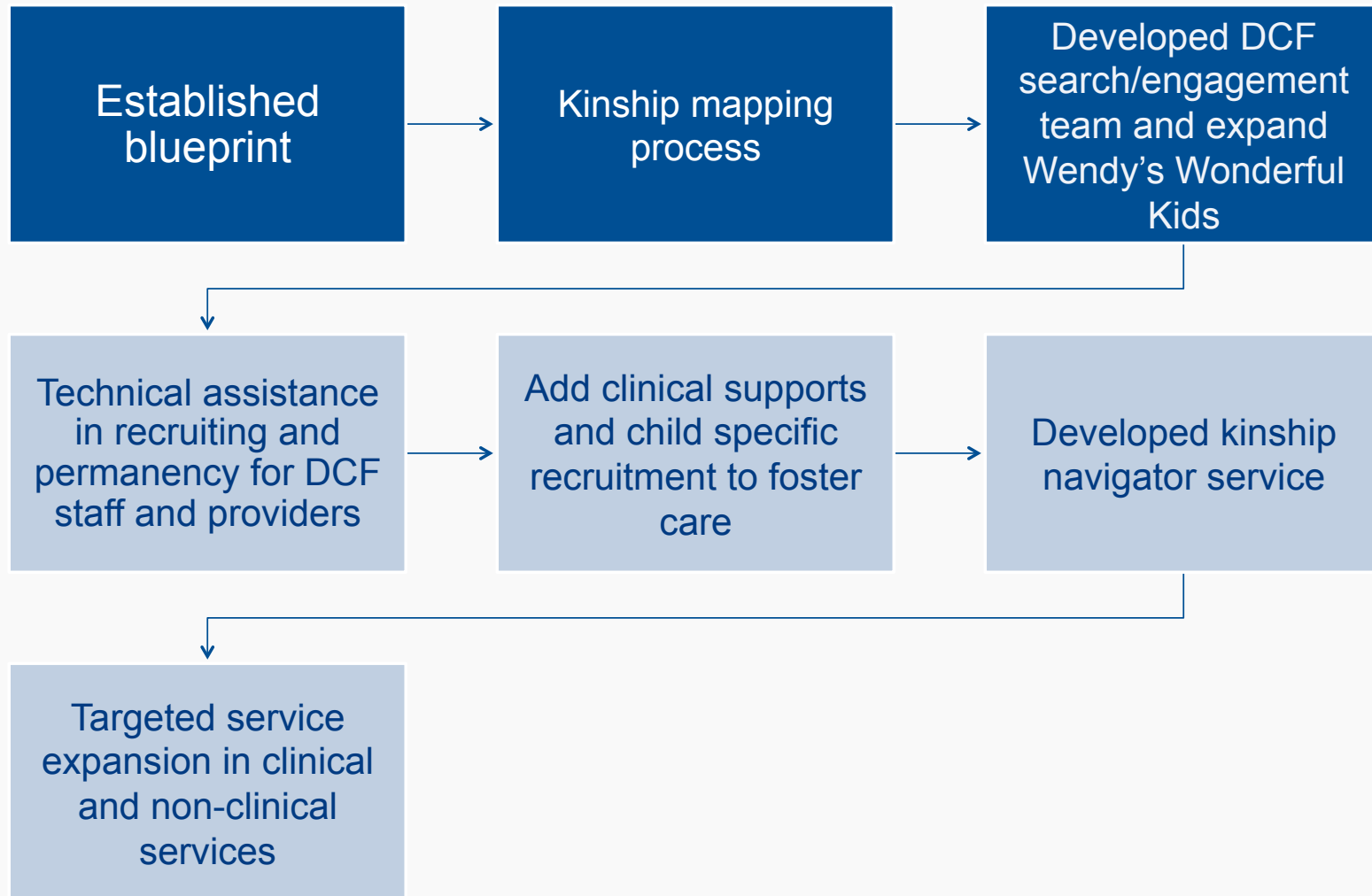
March, 2019

- 4,200 youth in care
- 7% of youth in congregate
- 9 youth in OOS programs
- 10 youth <12 in congregate

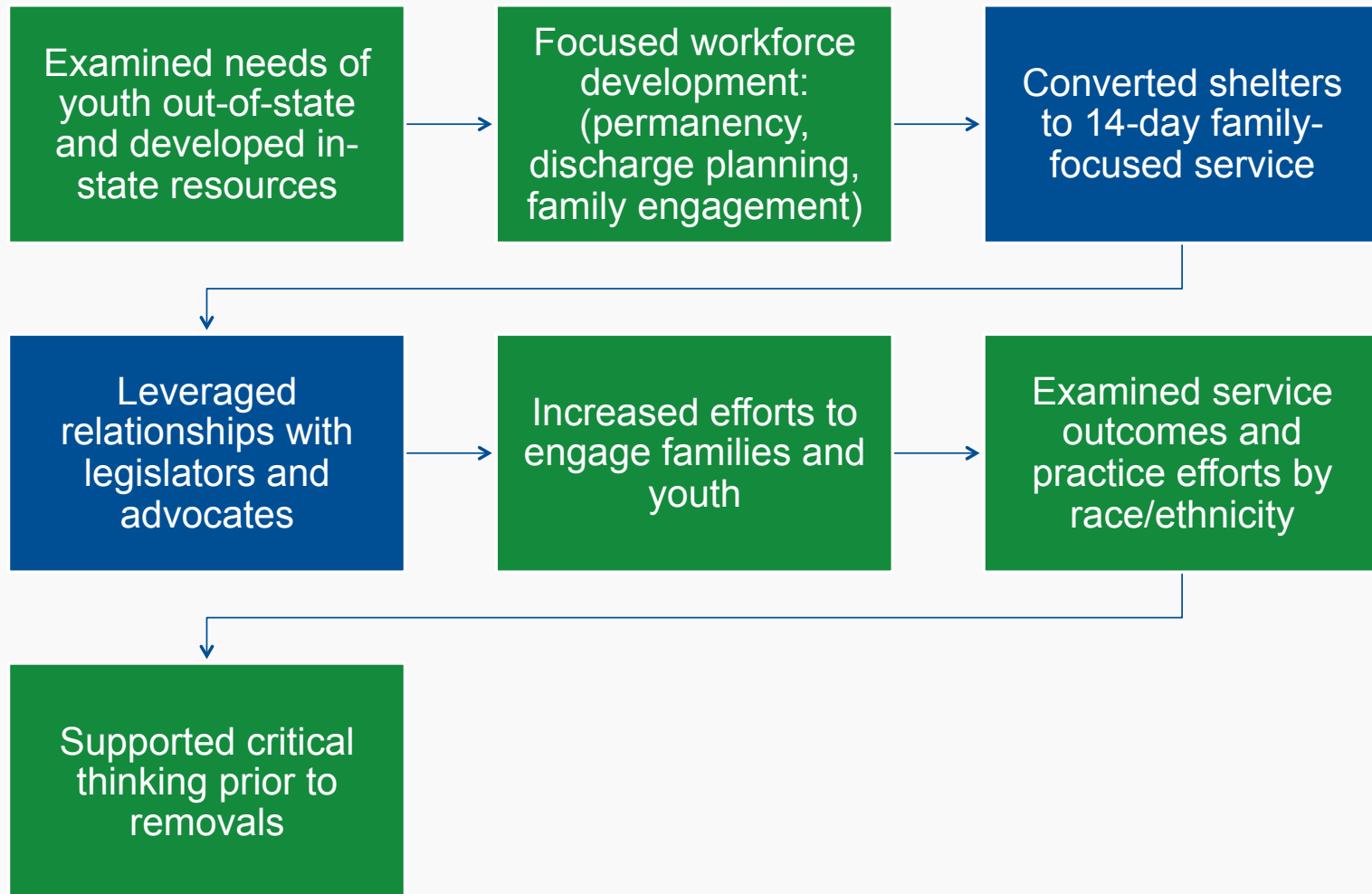
Practice Transformation



Connecticut Process



Connecticut Process (cont'd)



Agency Self-Reflection

Policy
change (i.e.,
10% rule)

Special
review
learning
forum

Rightsize
state
operated
beds

LEAN
approach to
foster care
licensing

Examine
voluntary
services
program

Enhanced
service
oversight

Prevention

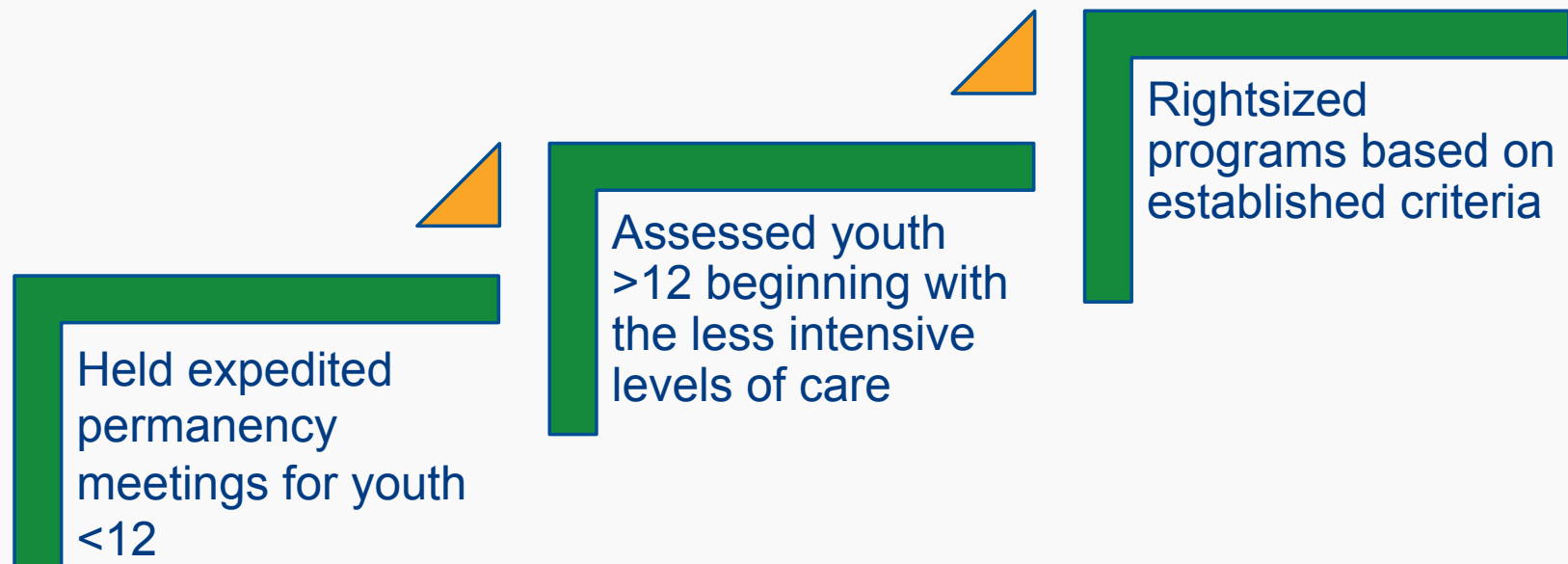
Message:
Families can
access services
without DCF
involvement

Engage early
childhood
experts

Differential
Response/
Considered
Removal/
Announced Visits

Partnership with
courts

Connecticut Rightsizing Steps



Maximize Foster Care Resources

Youth created DCF's foster care profile forms and directed our recruitment video

Panels of youth at racial justice forums and at "Youth at the Capitol Day"

Developed curriculum in LGBTQ sensitivity and launched the "Pride Campaign"

Foster care with intensive clinical supports

Consultation on recruitment & retention plans and data-informed benchmarks

Targeted effort in rural areas

Challenges

Messaging

Recruiting foster parents who want to serve as mentors to biological families

Balancing emphasis on services/arrays with natural supports

Shift in provider landscape

Kin placement permanency

Our Road Ahead

- Capitalize on technology for foster recruitment
- Continue workforce development in permanency
- Fiscal incentives for private agency growth
- Coordinate efforts related to FFPSA