



Iowa Department of Human Services

# Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

*Workgroup Meeting  
September 22, 2016*

# Criteria for Assessment

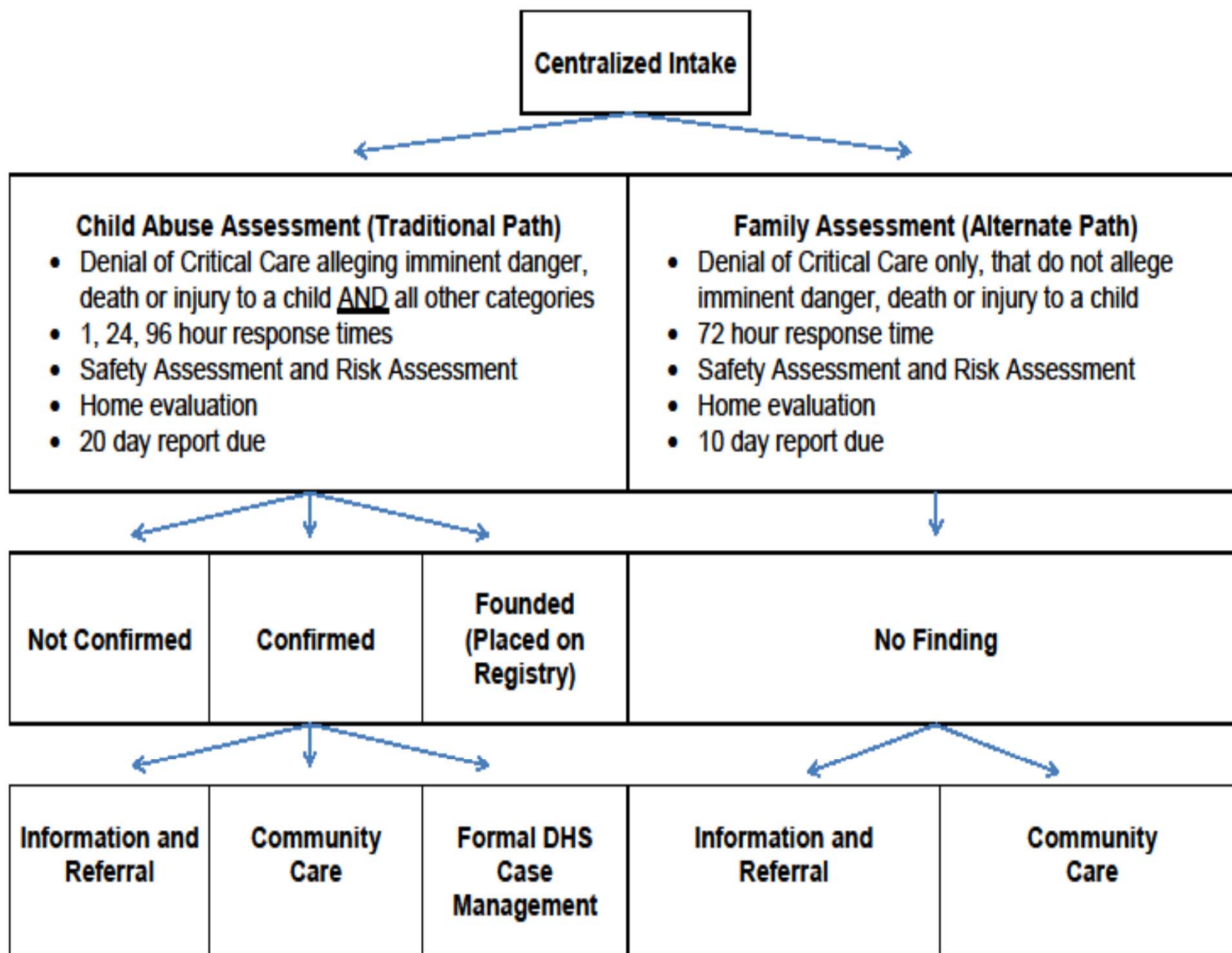
The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) has the responsibility and legal authority to conduct a Child Protection Assessment when there is reasonable belief of the following:

- The alleged victim is a child, and
- There alleged perpetrator is:
  - a caretaker; or
  - a person who resides in a home with the child, if the allegation is sexual abuse; or
  - a person who engages in or allows child sex trafficking, and
- The child is subjected to one or more of the eleven types of **child abuse** defined in Iowa Code §232.68.

# Child Abuse Defined

The Code of Iowa §232.68(2)(a) defines **eleven categories of child abuse**:

- Physical Abuse
- Mental Injury
- Sexual Abuse
- **Denial of Critical Care (DCC)**
- Child Prostitution
- Presence of Illegal Drugs in a Child's Body (PID)
- Manufacturing or Possession of a Dangerous Substance
- Bestiality in the presence of a minor
- Allows access by a Registered Sex Offender
- Allows access to Obscene Material
- Child Sex Trafficking



### **Child Abuse Assessment**

Focus on investigation of allegations

Cannot be re-assigned to Family Assessment path

Evidence is gathered

A finding is made

Consideration for placement on Registry

Confirmed high-risk and all Founded cases eligible for DHS services

### **Commonalities**

Safety first and foremost

Emphasis on engagement with family

Safety and risk assessed

Comprehensive assessment of family's strengths and needs

Services offered as needed to support safety, permanency, and child & family well-being

Partnership between DHS, parents, and community supports

### **Family Assessment**

Focus on family functioning

Can be re-assigned to Child Abuse Assessment path

Services and supports identified

No finding is made

No consideration for placement on Registry

Moderate and high risk cases eligible for Community Care

# Assessing Safety

The assessment worker will use **safety constructs** to evaluate the safety of the child with the caregivers in the home environment:

- **Threats of maltreatment**
- **Child's vulnerability**
- **Caretaker's protective capacities**

# Safety Assessment Outcomes

**Child is either:**

- **Safe**
- **Conditionally Safe**
- **Unsafe**



# Child Abuse Assessment Findings

**Not Confirmed** (Not placed on Registry) – There was not a preponderance of evidence indicating abuse occurred.

**Confirmed** (Not placed on Registry) – There was a preponderance of evidence indicating *Physical Abuse* or *Denial of Critical Care* (lack of supervision or lack of adequate clothing) occurred and ALL the following conditions were met:

- The incident was **minor**, and
- The incident was **isolated**, and
- The incident was **unlikely to reoccur**.



# Child Abuse Findings (cont.)

**Founded** (Confirmed AND Placed on Registry) – There was a preponderance of evidence indicating abuse occurred.

- In addition, if the allegations were *Physical Abuse* or *Denial of Critical Care* (lack of supervision or lack of adequate clothing), the criteria of minor, isolated, and unlikely to reoccur were not met.

# Central Abuse Registry

Total on the Registry: 49,529

Totals placed in last 5 years:

2011 – 4,284

2012 – 4,290

2013 – 4,411

2014 – 3,009

2015 – 3,321

# Pre-Differential Response 2013

26,129

Total Assessments

6,678 (25.5%)

Founded

2,233 (8.5%)

Confirmed

17,218 (66%)

Not Confirmed

# Post-Differential Response 2015

24,298

Total Assessments

4,811 (20%)

Founded

1,231 (5%)

Confirmed

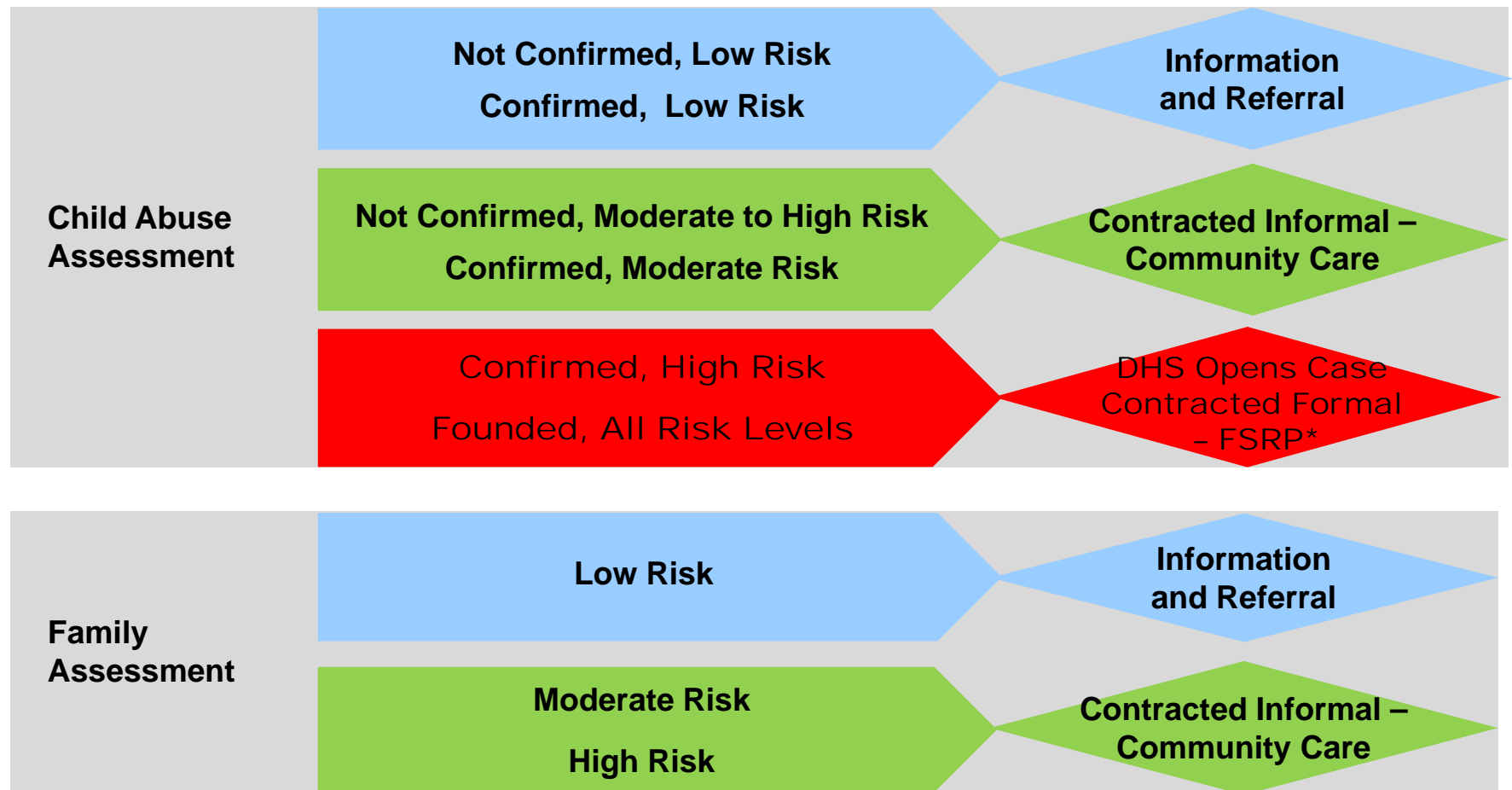
10,787 (44%)

Not Confirmed

7,469 (31%)

Family Assessment

# Service Eligibility





# Child Welfare System Data

# Children Who Are Confirmed By Child Protective Services As Victims Of Maltreatment

Location	Data Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Illinois	Number	26,342	25,734	27,366	29,590	29,527
	Rate per 1,000	8	8	9	10	10
Iowa	Number	11,991	11,015	10,738	11,335	8,059
	Rate per 1,000	16	15	15	16	11
Minnesota	Number	4,428	4,316	4,224	4,158	4,112
	Rate per 1,000	3	3	3	3	3
New York	Number	76,775	72,421	68,183	64,398	65,465
	Rate per 1,000	18	17	16	15	15
Texas	Number	64,471	62,970	62,060	64,192	64,902
	Rate per 1,000	9	9	9	9	9

# Children Who Are Confirmed By Child Protective Services As Victims Of Maltreatment **by Ranking**

1	Penn.	1
2	New Hampshire	2
3	Minnesota	3
3	Kansas	3
3	Virginia	3
6	Hawaii	4
6	Missouri	4
6	Wisconsin	4
6	Idaho	4
6	South Dakota	4
11	Montana	5

18	Colorado	8
24	Ohio	9
24	Georgia	9
24	Texas	9
24	North Dakota	9
28	Connecticut	10
28	Illinois	10
30	Utah	11
30	South Carolina	11
30	Iowa	11
30	Florida	11
30	Louisiana	11
30	Mississippi	11

36	Maryland	12
36	Oregon	12
38	Arkansas	13
38	Alaska	13
38	West Virginia	13
41	Michigan	14
42	Indiana	15
42	Maine	15
42	New Mexico	15
42	New York	15
46	Rhode Island	16
47	Kentucky	21
48	Massachusetts	23



# Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care

Location	Data Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Illinois	Number	17,713	15,157	14,382	14,563	14,988
	Rate per 1,000	6	5	5	5	5
Iowa	Number	6,531	6,269	6,182	6,287	5,920
	Rate per 1,000	9	9	9	9	8
Minnesota	Number	5,047	4,953	5,209	5,534	6,228
	Rate per 1,000	4	4	4	4	5
New York	Number	26,709	21,690	20,893	19,993	19,481
	Rate per 1,000	6	5	5	5	5
Texas	Number	28,952	30,012	29,433	29,411	30,158
	Rate per 1,000	4	4	4	4	4

Data Provided by: [National KIDS COUNT](#)

# Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care by Ranking

1	Virginia	2
2	Maryland	3
2	Delaware	3
2	South Carolina	3
2	Idaho	3
2	New Hampshire	3
2	Utah	3
8	Hawaii	4
8	Texas	4
8	Louisiana	4
8	Alabama	4
8	Connecticut	4

27	South Dakota	6
27	Washington	6
27	Mississippi	6
27	Michigan	6
27	California	6
32	Massachusetts	7
32	Wyoming	7
32	Kentucky	7
32	Maine	7
32	Nevada	7
37	North Dakota	8
37	Nebraska	8

37	Iowa	8
37	Missouri	8
37	Oregon	8
42	Vermont	9
42	Indiana	9
42	Rhode Island	9
42	Kansas	9
46	Arizona	10
46	Montana	10
48	Oklahoma	12
48	Alaska	12
48	West Virginia	12



# DHS Strategies to Address Substance Abuse

# UNCOPE

- 6 question evidence-based screening tool
- Score reflects a need for further substance abuse evaluation
- Pilot in 4 counties
- Track outcomes

# Enhanced Training

- Statewide training on three major drivers of child welfare involvement
- Substance Abuse Fundamentals offered to all staff.
- SA Fundamentals required of all new Social Work Case Managers and Child Protection Workers.

# Child Welfare Data System

- Additional substance information
- Assist with making data-driven decisions for system efficiencies
- Impact on policies and practice as data is known

# Substance Abuse Data CY14

CY14 - 23,463 Total Child Protective Assessment's (CPA) accepted:

14,361 (61%) assigned as Child Abuse Assessments (CAA)

9,102 (39%) assigned as Family Assessments (FA)

9,840 (42%) of total, allegation involved caretaker use of mood altering substance

5,981 (61%) of total involving substance, assigned CAA			3,859 (39%) of total involving substance, assigned FA			Reassigned to CAA	
2,008	(34%)	Marijuana	1,612	(42%)	Marijuana	179	(11%)
74	(1%)	Heroin	63	(2%)	Heroin	15	(24%)
213	(4%)	Cocaine	132	(3%)	Cocaine	21	(16%)
67	(1%)	Synthetic Drugs	74	(2%)	Synthetic Drugs	8	(11%)
582	(10%)	Alcohol	836	(22%)	Alcohol	118	(14%)
2,397	(40%)	Methamphetamine	657	(17%)	Methamphetamine	146	(22%)
374	(6%)	Prescription Drugs	273	(7%)	Prescription Drugs	40	(15%)
266	(4%)	Other	212	(5%)	Other	42	(20%)
						569	(15%)
						of total FA involving substance	

# Substance Abuse Data CY15

CY15 - 24,563 Total Child Protective Assessment's (CPA) accepted:

15,524 (63%) assigned as Child Abuse Assessments (CAA)

9,039 (37%) assigned as Family Assessments (FA)

(excludes CPA's from December 2015 that were still open for assessment)

10,838 (44%) of total, allegation involved caretaker use of mood altering substance

6,792 (63%) of total involving substance, assigned CAA			4,046 (37%) of total involving substance, assigned FA			Reassigned to CAA	
2,239	(33%)	Marijuana	1,660	(41%)	Marijuana	277	(17%)
103	(2%)	Heroin	<b>79</b>	<b>(2%)</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>(30%)</b>
228	(3%)	Cocaine	<b>155</b>	<b>(4%)</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>(23%)</b>
36	(1%)	Synthetic Drugs	8	(1%)	Synthetic Drugs	8	(1%)
734	(11%)	Alcohol	907	(22%)	Alcohol	163	(18%)
2,852	(42%)	Methamphetamine	<b>736</b>	<b>(18%)</b>	<b>Methamphetamine</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>(27%)</b>
378	(5%)	Prescription Drugs	299	(7%)	Prescription Drugs	58	(19%)
222	(3%)	Other	202	(5%)	Other	57	(28%)
						823	(20%)
						of total FA involving substance	



# Meth Specialist

- One Service Area is piloting this enhanced position
- Integrated approach to supporting caregivers
- Data Outcomes thus far

# Family Drug Treatment Court

- Currently 15 FDCs in Iowa
- Early substance abuse assessments and treatment
- More frequent hearings
- Coordinated treatment team delivery of services

# DEC Definition

- The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as...

*“Children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker’s substance misuse interferes with the caretaker’s ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment”.*