

# TANF and Child Welfare Service Integration

**Through Service Integration, El Paso County Human Services has:**

- Reduced the number of families on welfare without using sanctions or punitive approaches
- Reduced the number of children and youth in foster care
- Reduced number of children in institutional placements
- Increased safety of children

**Why we initiated Integrated Services:**

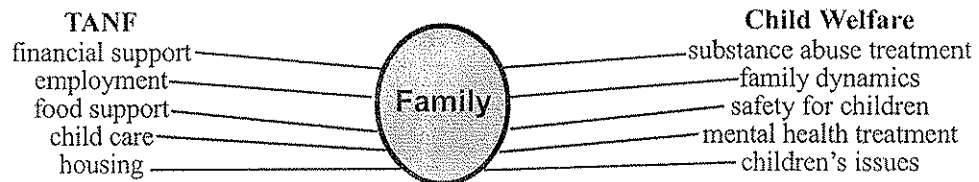
**TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)**

- Too many families in poverty
- Families facing multiple barriers to self-sufficiency
- New emphasis on employment
- Need child well-being and safety expertise in TANF

**Child Welfare**

- Too many children in out-of-home care
- Need to improve outcomes for child safety, permanency and well-being
- Resources in child welfare insufficient to meet poverty needs of families

**Leveraging systems' strengths provide more complete support to families**



**El Paso County's Integrated System includes:**

- Combining child welfare workers and TANF techs into one unit
- Giving families access to resources of both TANF and child welfare
- Providing flexible funding from TANF and child welfare

**Service Integration yields:**

- Greater ability to serve high-need families receiving TANF
- Access to broader services for families in child welfare
- Ability to meet requirements of both programs with a single case plan
- Ability to "one-stop shop" with co-location of TANF, child welfare, other staff and community partners
- Reduction in paperwork
- Reduction in court involvement
- More flexible funding and services

**El Paso County Integrated Services Outcomes:**

<b>Reduce number of families on welfare</b>		
1996 - 4,072 monthly caseload	46.4% reduction	2006 - 2,183 monthly caseload
<b>Reduce number of children and youth in foster care</b>		
1996 - 591 monthly average	37.6% reduction	2006 - 369 monthly average
<b>Reduce number of youth in residential treatment</b>		
1996 - 183 monthly average	40% reduction	2006 - 110 monthly average
<b>Reduce El Paso County reabuse rate</b>	1.44% reabuse	<b>Federal goal - 6.1% or less</b> Children & Family Service Review