

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:

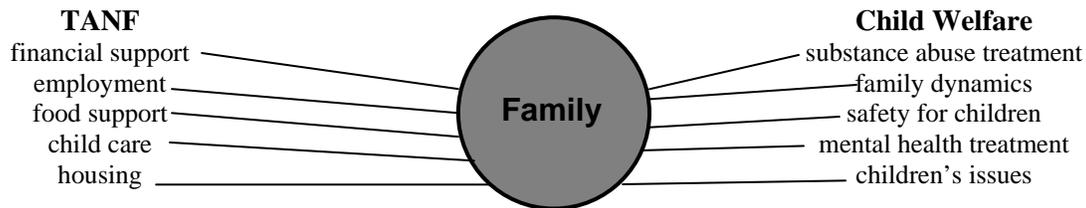
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

- 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