

**Provider G-Force Meeting:  
Focus on Maltreatment in Care &  
Placement Instability**

**Division of Family & Children Services  
May 10, 2010**

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## **Agenda**

- Recap of the April 2010 G-Force Meeting
- Placement Stability
  1. Placement stability trend for children in foster care in Georgia
  2. Analysis of Children with 10 or more placement settings
  3. Children with 10 or more placements and substantiated maltreatment in care incidents
- Path of Children with High Placement Moves
- Provider Report-Out: Children with Serious Medical Needs
- Homework Assignments and Action Plans

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## Recap: Emerging Hypotheses from April 2010 G-Force Meeting

- Children with high number of placements lack stability and therefore need more intense services and support and may be more likely to become victims of substantiated maltreatment while in care.
- Critical “smoke” factors are being missed before the “fire” because of the “silent child,” inadequate professional lens to detect emerging risk and problems in the transition practice for children in care.  
*-Children with high number of placement moves require more skilled staff in order to detect and manager the emerging risks and associated behaviors.*

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## Homework Assignments for May 2010 Provider G-Force Meeting

- **DFCS**
  - Explore the data around children with high number of placement settings.
- **Providers**
  - Identify 5-10 kids with serious medical issues, pull cases and understand from removal to placement.

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## Placement Stability

- Georgia's Performance on Federal Standard related to Placement Stability
  - Administrative Data
  - Qualitative Review Findings
- Characteristics of Children with 10 or more placement settings
- Factors related to Placement Instability & Substantiated Maltreatment in Care

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### Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability {101.5 or higher} / (Based on Administrative Data)

Numbers in brackets to the right {81.1 % 81.0} reflect Georgia's performance for Permanency Composite 4.	National Median FY 2009	State Score for FY 2008 {81.1}	State Score for FY 2009 {81.0}
<b>Measure 1. Two or fewer placement settings for children in care for less than 12 months.</b> Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period who were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?	83.3%	72.1%	73.8%
<b>Measure 2. Two or fewer placement settings for children in care for 12 to 24 months.</b> Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?	59.9%	53.9%	52.8%
<b>Measure 3. Two or fewer placement settings for children in care for 24+ months.</b> Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?	33.9%	30.2%	27.2%

Note: Georgia has not met the established standards for this composite. The largest decline in performance has been in placement stability for children who have been in care for 24 months or more.

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## Qualitative Review Findings on Placement Stability

Permanency Outcome	Federal Review May 2007	FFY 2008	FFY 2009 (to date)
Stability of foster care placement	83%	86%	88%

### *Reasons for placement changes:*

- Place with siblings
- Place with relatives
- More restrictive setting needed

## Observations regarding Children with Multiple Placements

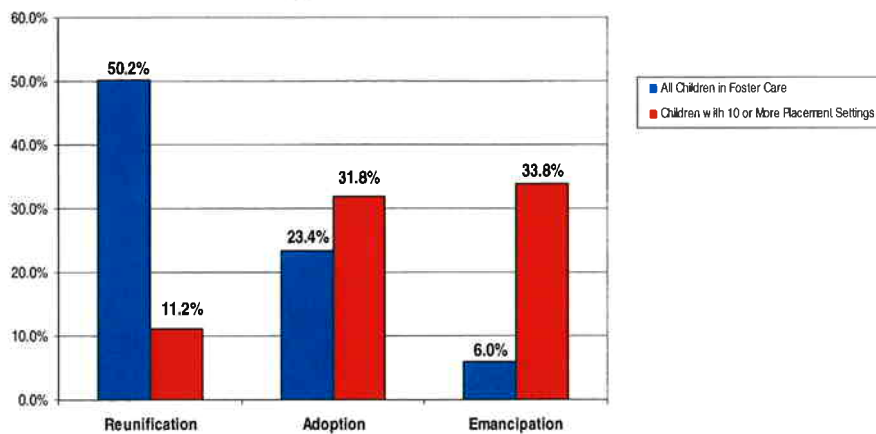
*When compared to overall population of children in foster care, they are:*

- Much older (15.5 years of age while overall population is an average age of 8.5)
- Have been in care for a much longer period time (66.3 months compared to 21.6 months)
- Have been in current placement for shorter period of time (7.4 months compared to 11.6)
- Less likely to have goal of reunification (11% compared to 50%)
- More likely to have goal of emancipation (33% compared to 6%)
- More likely to have parents whose parental rights have been terminated (38% compared to 18.8%)
- More likely to have had a previous foster care episode (49% versus 17%).

### Comparison between All Children in Foster Care & Children with 10 or More Placement Settings

	All Children in Foster Care	Children with 10 or More Placement Settings
Average Age	8.5	15.5
Average Months in Care	21.6	66.3
Median Months in Care	13.2	58.5
Average Months in Current Placement	11.6	7.4
Median Months in Current Placement	11.0	4.5
Average Number of Placement Settings	2.6	13.1

### Comparison of Selected Permanency Plans for All Children in Foster Care & Children with 10 or More Placement Settings



**Termination of Parental Rights:** The parental rights of 18.8% of the parents of all children in care have been terminated as compared to 38% of children who have had 10 or more placement settings.

## Characteristics of Children with 10 or more Placement Setting Since Entering Care (N=249)

- This group accounts for 3% of children in care.
- Number of placements range from 10 to 34.
- 123 or 49.4% have had previous foster care entry prior to current one.
- Only 36 or 14.5% of the children have siblings in care. Out of those, only 8 are placed with siblings (22%).
- None of children with 13 or more placements have siblings in care.

	Number of Children	Percent of Children
Adoptive home	9	3.6%
Relative	10	4.0%
YDC	13	5.2%
DFCS foster home	23	9.2%
CPA	67	26.9%
CCI	100	40.2%
Other	27	10.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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## Age of Children who have been in 10 or More Placement Settings

Age of Children	Number of Children	Percent of Children
12 or younger	39	15.7%
13 - 15 years of age	60	24.1%
16 years of age	66	26.5%
17 years of age	84	33.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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