



# A Model Approach For Change In Child Welfare BOCC Work Session

Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services –  
Division of Social Services

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# A MODEL APPROACH FOR CHANGE IN CHILD WELFARE



# Phase I Process

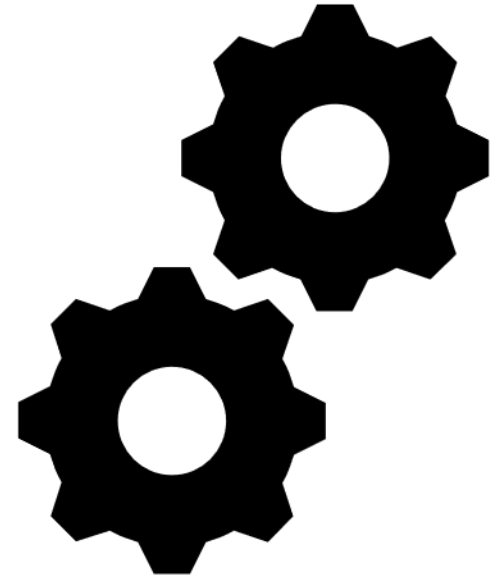


- Quantitative data analysis
  - Demographic and community data
  - Child welfare administrative data
  - Caseload and staffing data
  - Court continuance data
- Qualitative data analysis
  - Focus groups and interviews
  - Community partner survey
  - Core stakeholder meetings



# Systemic Barriers to Reunification

- Child welfare system
  - Staff workload
  - Communication processes
  - Application and interpretation of policy
  - Post-reunification supports/services
- Court system
  - Court continuances and delays
  - Guardian ad Litem/DSS collaboration



# Community Barriers to Reunification



- Affordable, accessible, high quality services (substance abuse, mental health, parenting)
- In-county foster care placements
- Community resources: housing, transportation, employment, financial supports
- Understanding of DSS mandates and commitment to reunification



# Family Factors Impacting Reunification

- Social determinants of health (SDOH)
- Financial insecurity/poverty
- Education and employment
- Prior engagement with the child welfare system
- Informal and concrete supports



# Recommendations

- Court collaborative

- Convene a series of quarterly facilitated meetings
- Data sharing and analysis: How is District 18 functioning and how does that impact a child's likelihood of reunifying with their family?
- Set goals and timeline for achievement

- Case file review

- What is the profile of children entering care?
- What is the prior history with CPS/DSS?
- What internal factors are present (frontloaded services provided, #social workers, #placements, location of placements, etc.)?
- What external factors are present (#GAL, judicial rulings, court continuances, community services provided, etc.)?
- Review findings with court collaborative, internal and external partners



# Recommendations

- Host internal and external meetings to review findings and recommendations; provide an opportunity for feedback
- Establish AMAC-CW leadership and governance, including the development of an internal Steering Committee and an external Advisory Council
  - Review findings and recommendations
  - Develop shared goals and vision for participation
  - Establish workgroups focused on critical outcomes
  - Determine opportunities for immediate action



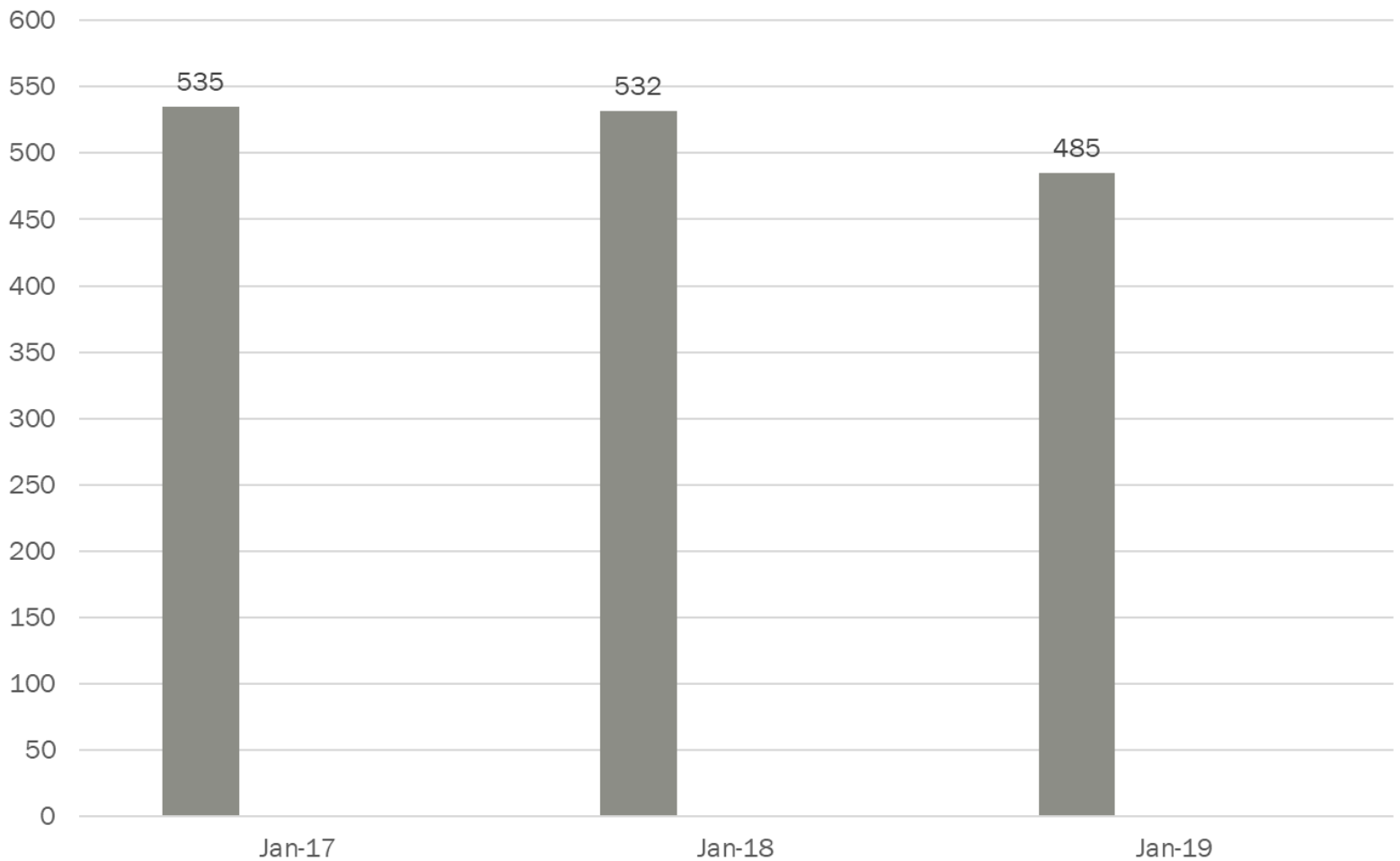


# Meeting Standards and Benchmarks

- Children are safe and well, connected with a permanent home
  - Permanency within 12 months for children entering foster care
  - Permanency within 12 months for children in foster care for 2 years or more
  - Reduced re-entry into foster care
  - Placement stability
- The system is working in the best interests of children
  - Case review system (case planning and timely court processes)
  - Service array and resource development
  - Agency responsiveness to the community
  - Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention



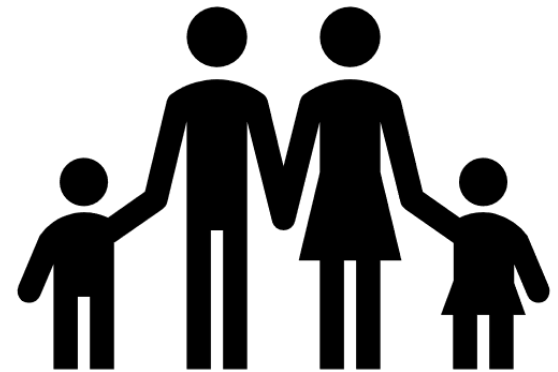
## Children in Care on January 1.



# Room & Board

- 2018-2019 Room & Board Budget
  - \$7,8000,000.00
  - \$4,876,419.00 Expended through 3/31/19
  - \$6,501,892.00 Projected through 6/30/19

**Projected savings of county funds –  
\$415,394.00**



# AMAC-CW

## Phase II

- Coordinate and Facilitate Quarterly Court Collaborative Meetings
  - Case File Reviews
  - Internal Steering Committee
  - AMAC-CW Community Advisory Council
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- \$200,000.00 - requesting to utilize Adoption Promotion Incentive Funds and to reallocate some of the savings from Room and Board for additional 1 year contract



# Questions?

