

**State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services**

Division for Children, Youth, and Families

Presented to House Finance Division III

March 5, 2021

Joseph E. Ribsam Jr.

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

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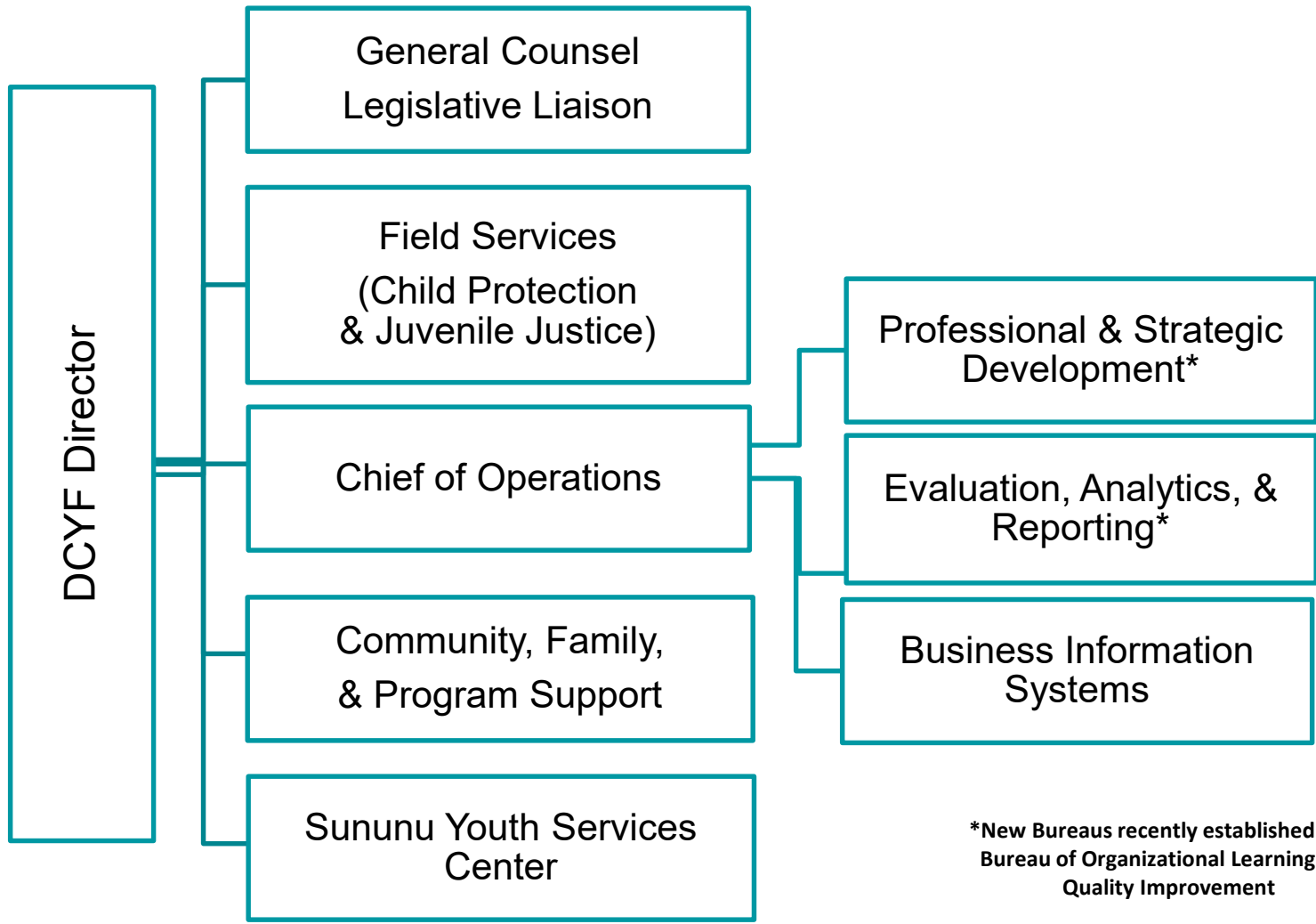


Mission

We partner with families & communities to provide resources and supports that lead to the safety and healthy development of children, youth, and the communities in which they live.



Overview – DCYF Organizational Chart



*New Bureaus recently established from Bureau of Organizational Learning and Quality Improvement



Overview - Division for Children, Youth, & Families

Child Protective Services:

Investigate and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect. Provide for the safety, permanency, and well-being of child victims or children at risk of maltreatment.

Juvenile Justice Services:

Support children and youth to remediate challenges with delinquency to promote child, family, and community safety. Support children and youth identified as Children in Need of Services

Sununu Youth Services Center:

Provide a safe and secure environment for detained and committed youth that receive crisis intervention, mental health, and treatment services in a secure setting. Ensure safety and well being of committed and detained youth and the overall safety of the community.



Overview – Child Protective Services

Investigate and assess allegations of child abuse and neglect. Provide for the safety, permanency, and well-being of child victims or children at risk of maltreatment.

Child Protective Services

Services include:

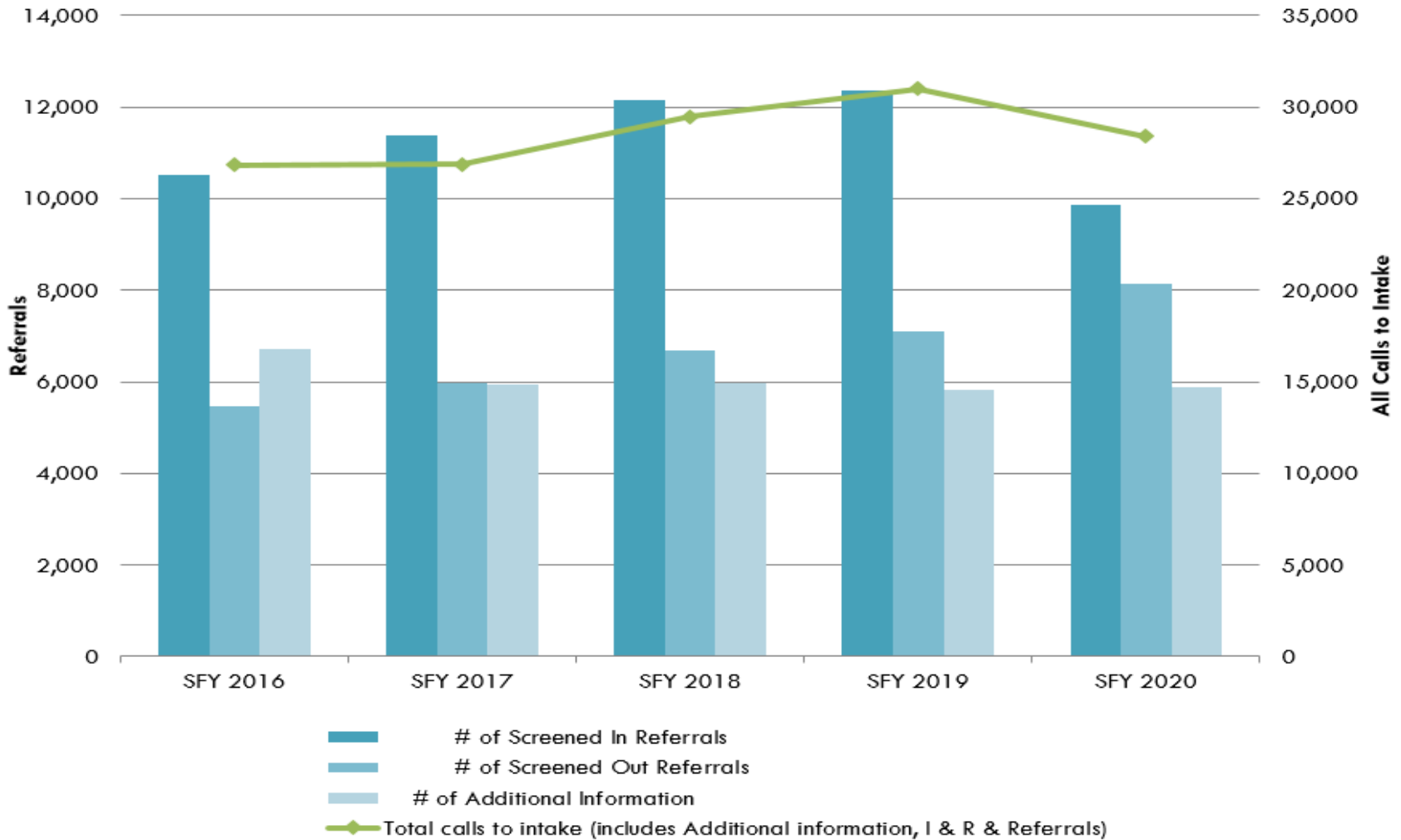
- Child abuse/neglect hotline
- Child abuse/neglect assessments (24/7 emergency response)
- In-home/in-community services to keep children safely at home
- Out-of-home residential services when children cannot be safely maintained at home
 - Relative care
 - Foster care
 - Residential care
- Reunification services
- Adoption & Adoptive services

State Mandates

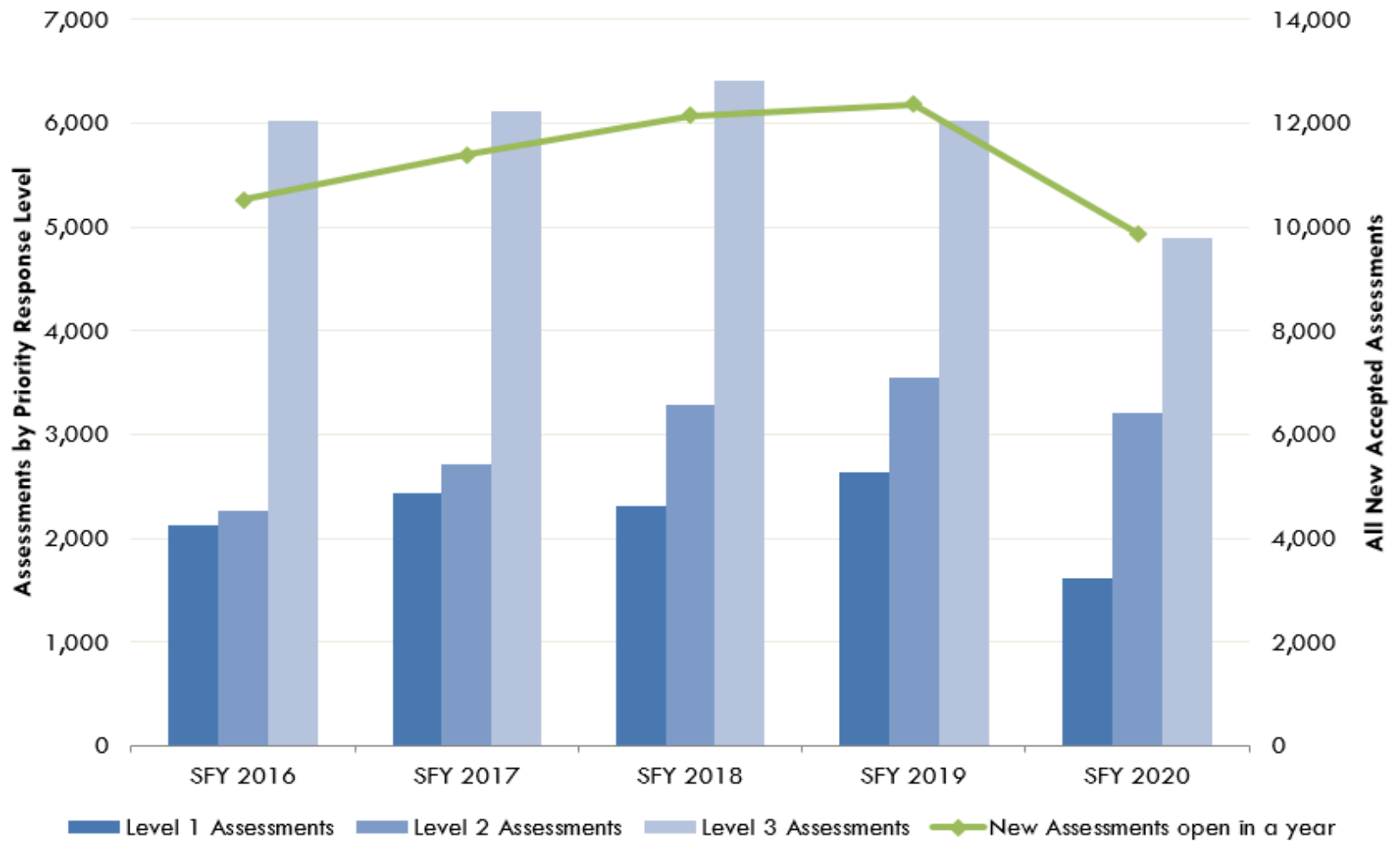
- Child Protection Act – RSA 169-C
- Child Placing Agencies/Foster Care 170-E:24
- Termination of Parental Rights – RSA 170-C
- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children – RSA 170-A
- Adoption – RSA 170-B
- Services for Children, Youth and Families – 170-G



Child Protective Services – Calls to Intake



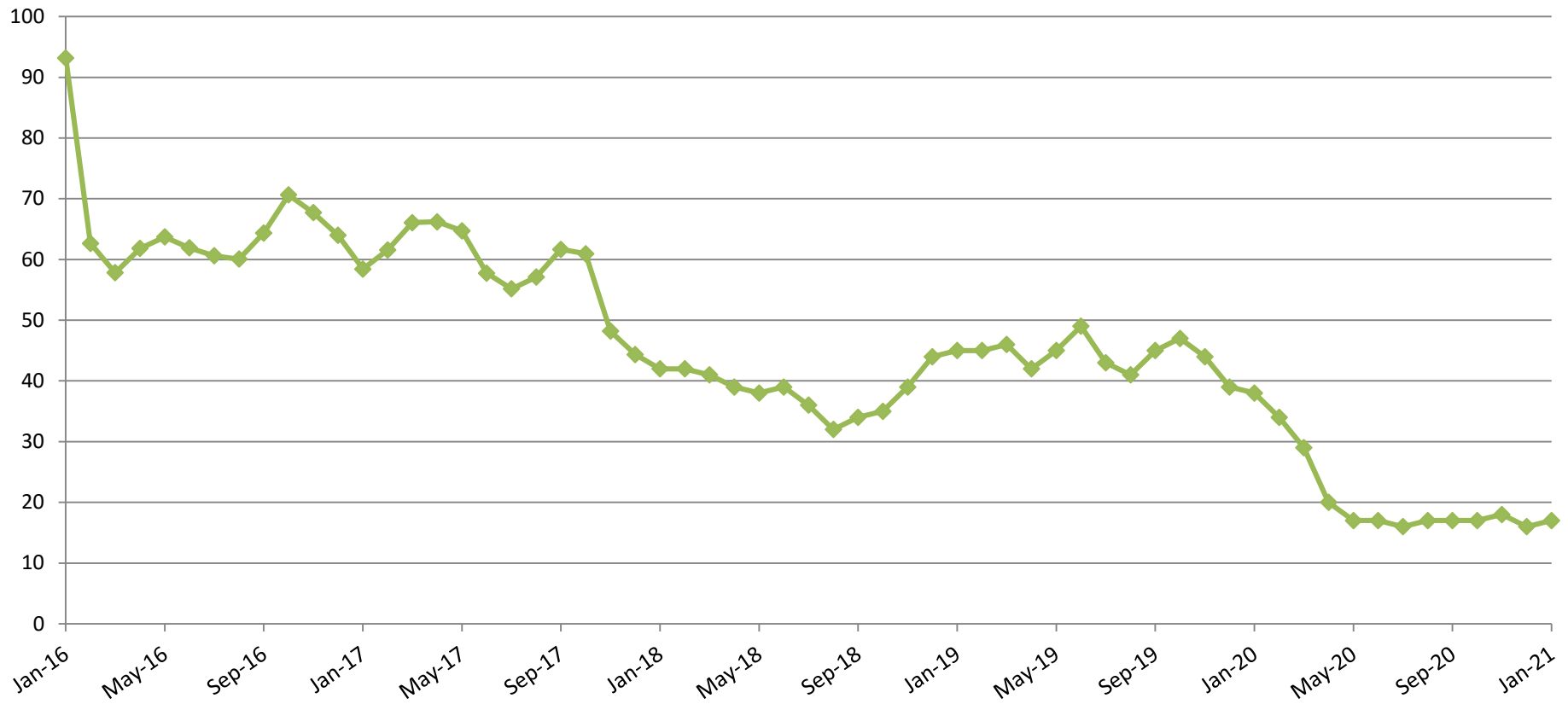
Child Protective Services – New Assessments



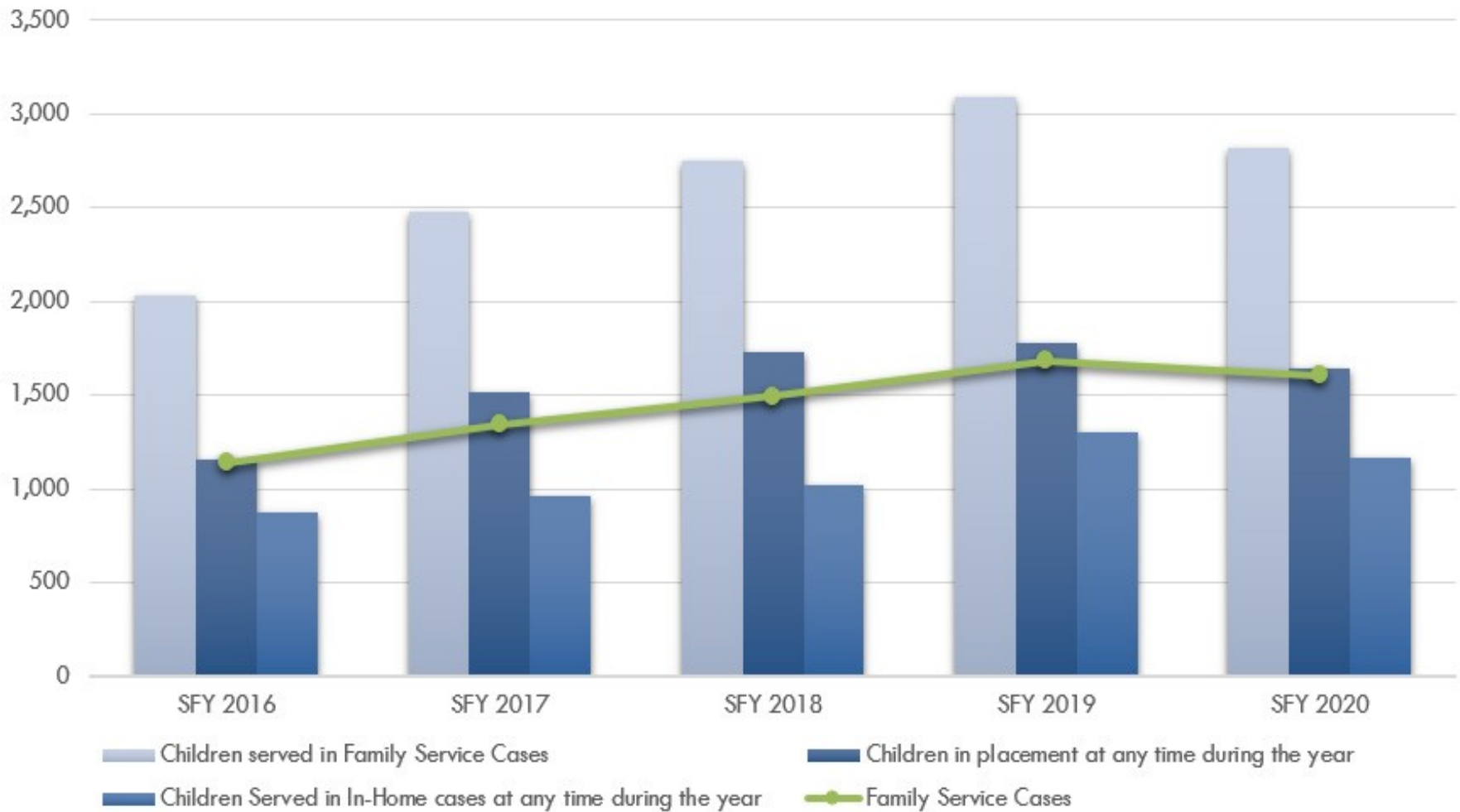
Child Protective Services - Assessment Caseloads (Target 12)

Average Assessments Assigned Per CPSW 2016-2020 (Last day of Month)

—◆— Assessment Workload Per CPSW

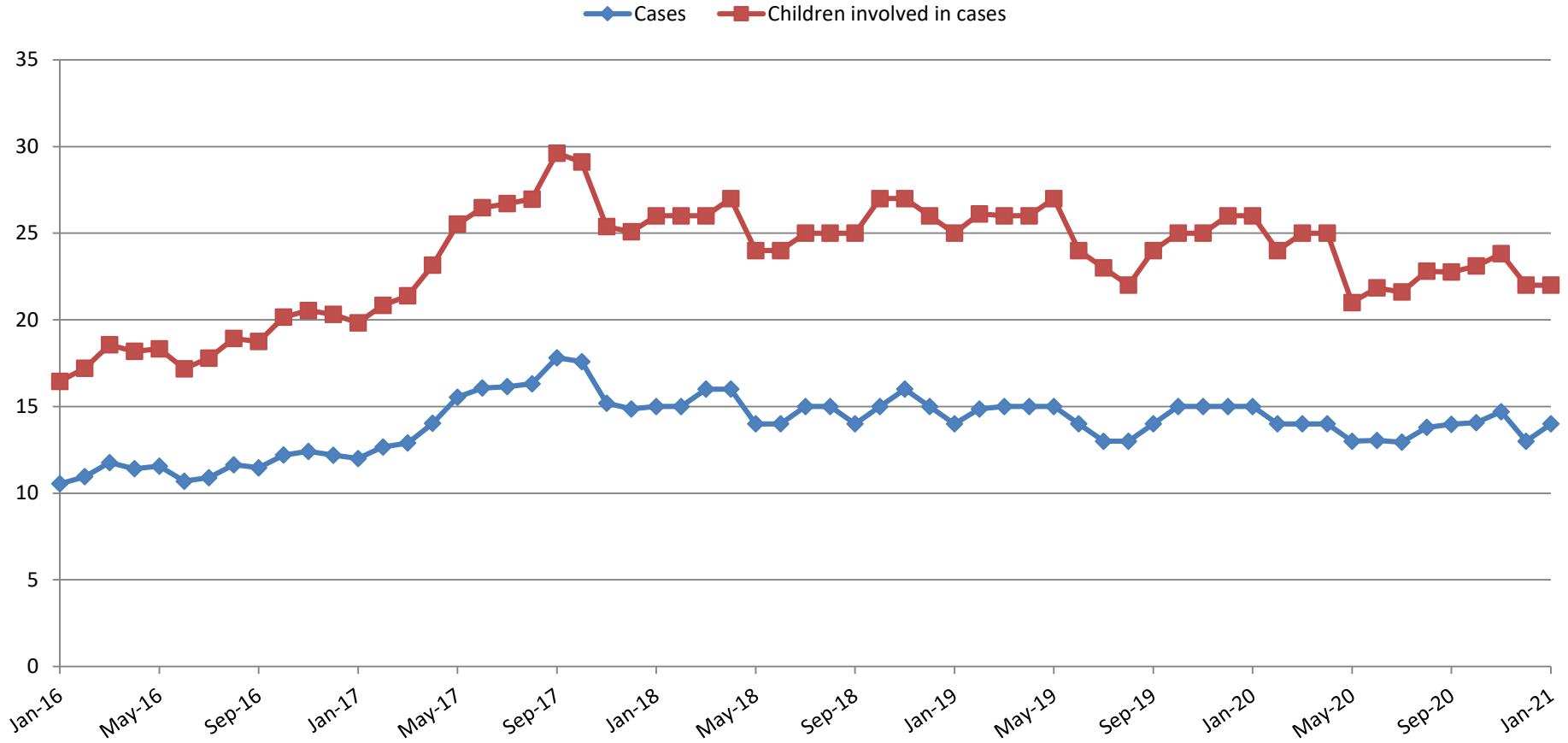


Child Protective Services – Family Service Cases



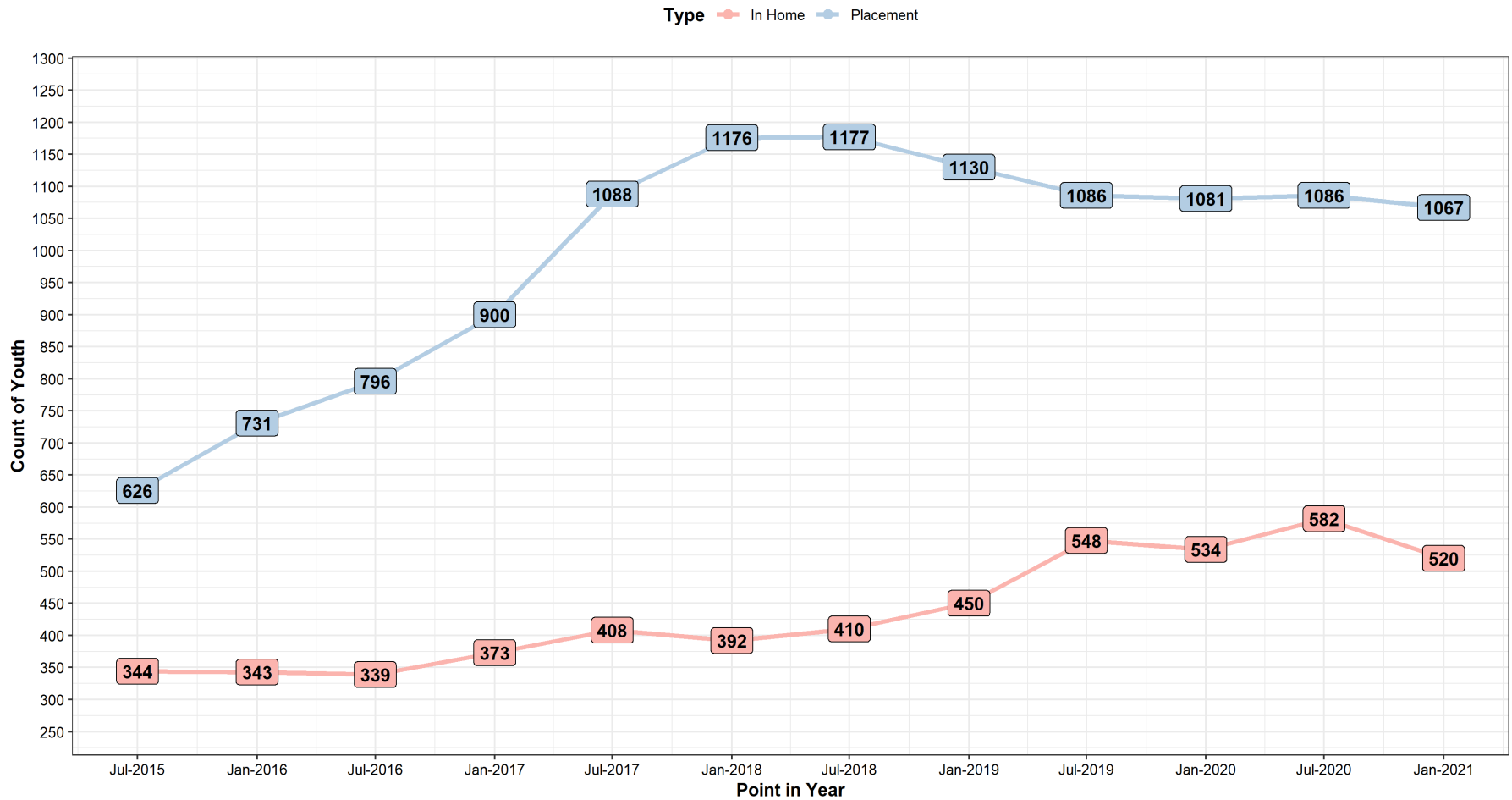
Child Protective Services – Family Service Caseloads (Target 10)

Average Number of Cases and Children Assigned per CPSW (Last day of the Month, 2016-2020)



Child Protective Services – Children in Open Cases

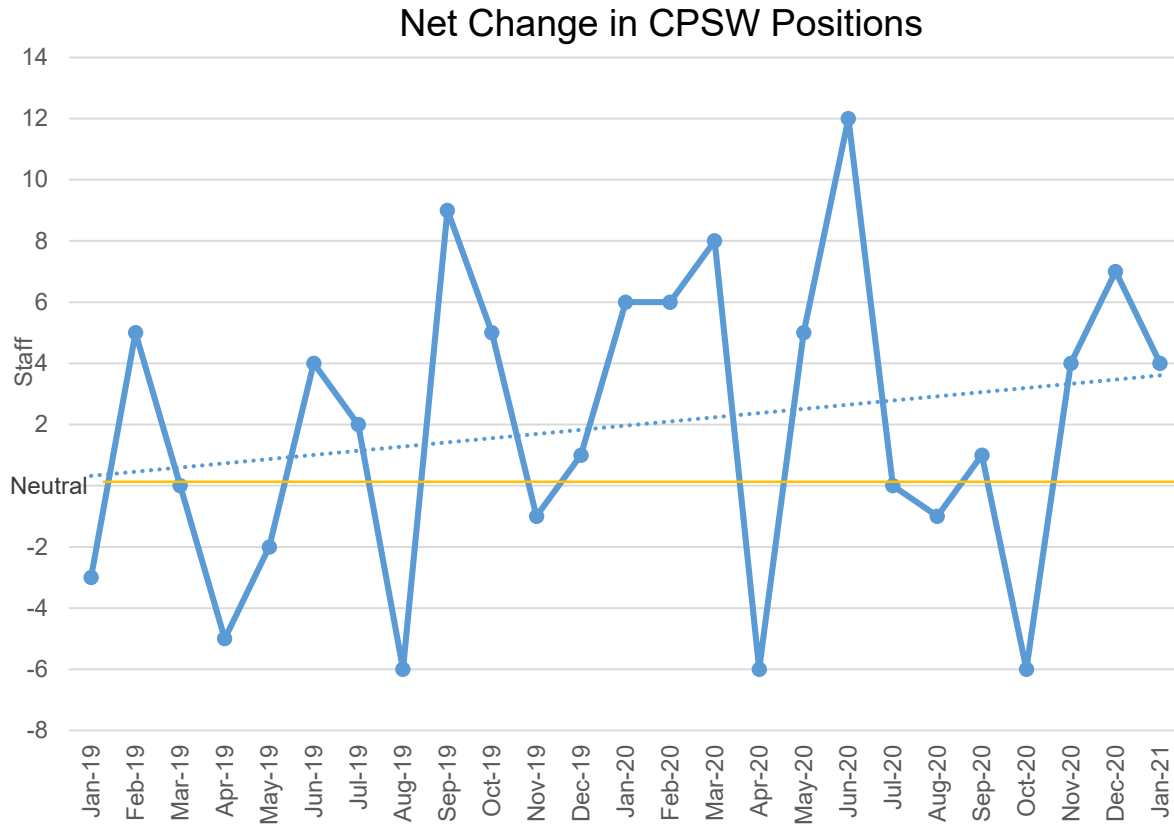
DCYF Child Protection Youth Involvement: SFY 2016 - SFY 2021
Count at the Start of Each Report Period



Data Extracted From Bridges (NH SACWIS) on 2021-02-16



Child Protective Services – Staff Hiring & Retention



Period	New Hire	Left Agency	Promotion
SFY16	45	39	5
SFY17	68	39	7
SFY18	74	41	8
SFY19	66	44	5
SFY20	97	40	15
Jul 2020	12	6	6
Aug 2020	4	4	2
Sep 2020	6	4	1
Oct 2020	4	8	2
Nov 2020	12	8	
Dec 2020	12	5	
Jan 2021	6	2	



Overview – Juvenile Justice Services

Support children and youth to remediate challenges with delinquency to promote child, family, and community safety. Support children and youth identified as Children in Need of Services

Juvenile Justice Services

Services include:

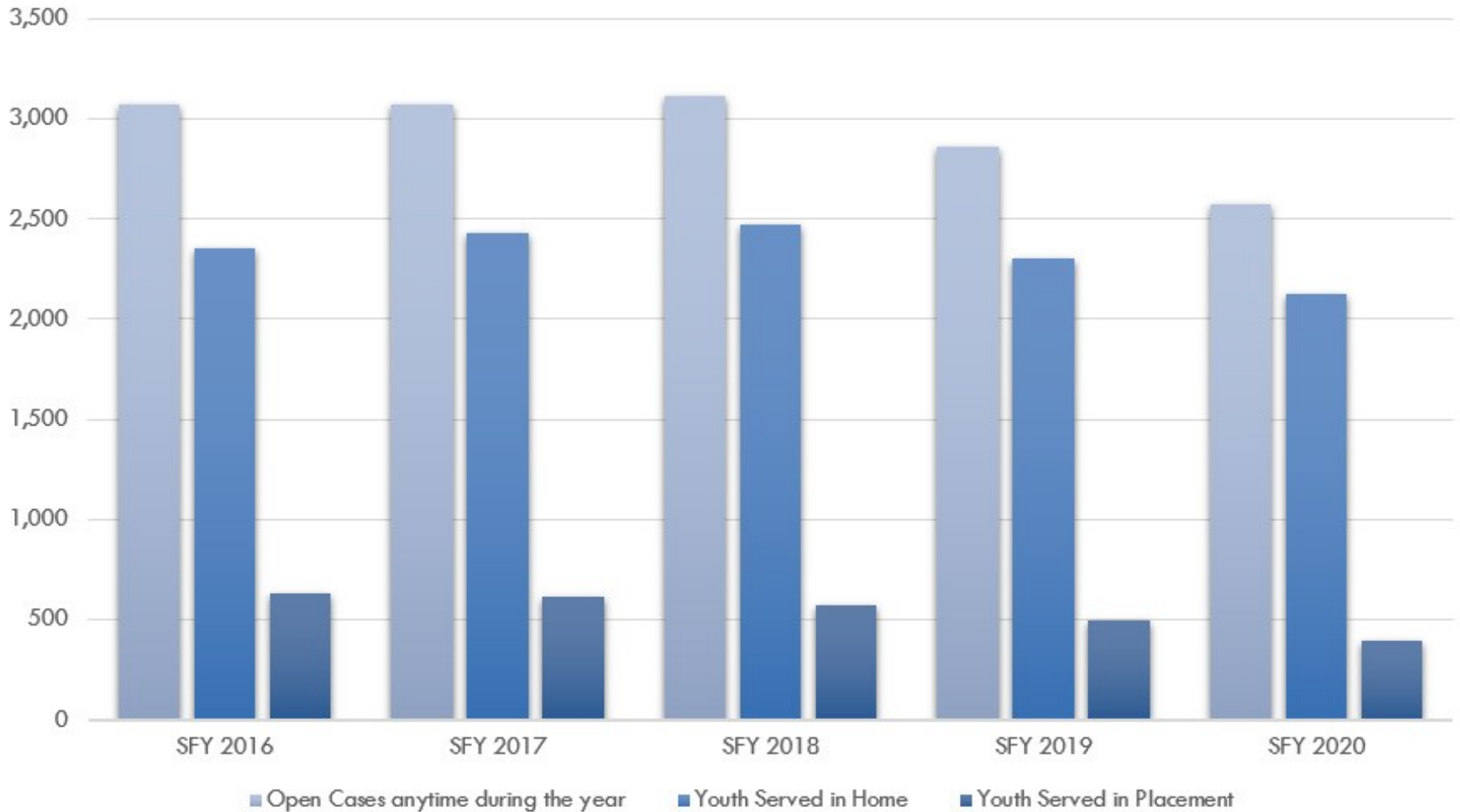
- **Delinquency Support Services (JPPO Case Management & Community Based Services)**
- **Children in Need of Services (Voluntary & Involuntary CHINS)**
- **In-home/in-community services to promote child, family, and community safety**
- **Out-of-home residential services when child/youth requires more intensive clinical as limited by law for delinquency and CHINS**
- **Support of permanency for children/youth**

State Mandates

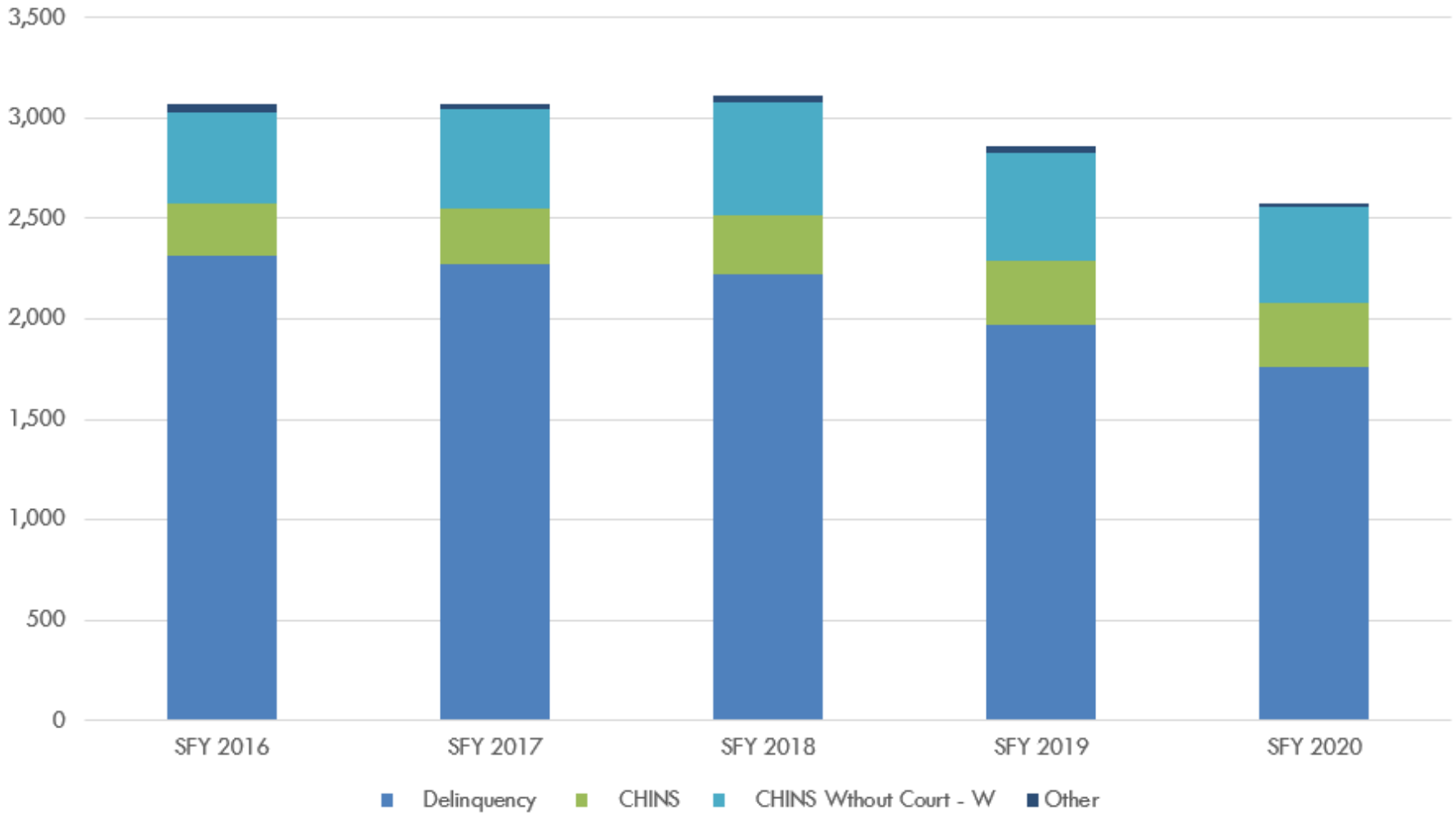
- **Children in Need of Services – RSA 169-D**
- **Delinquent Children – RSA 169-B**
- **Interstate Compact on Juveniles – RSA 169-A**
- **Services for Children, Youth and Families – 170-G**



Juvenile Justice Services – Open Cases by State Fiscal Year



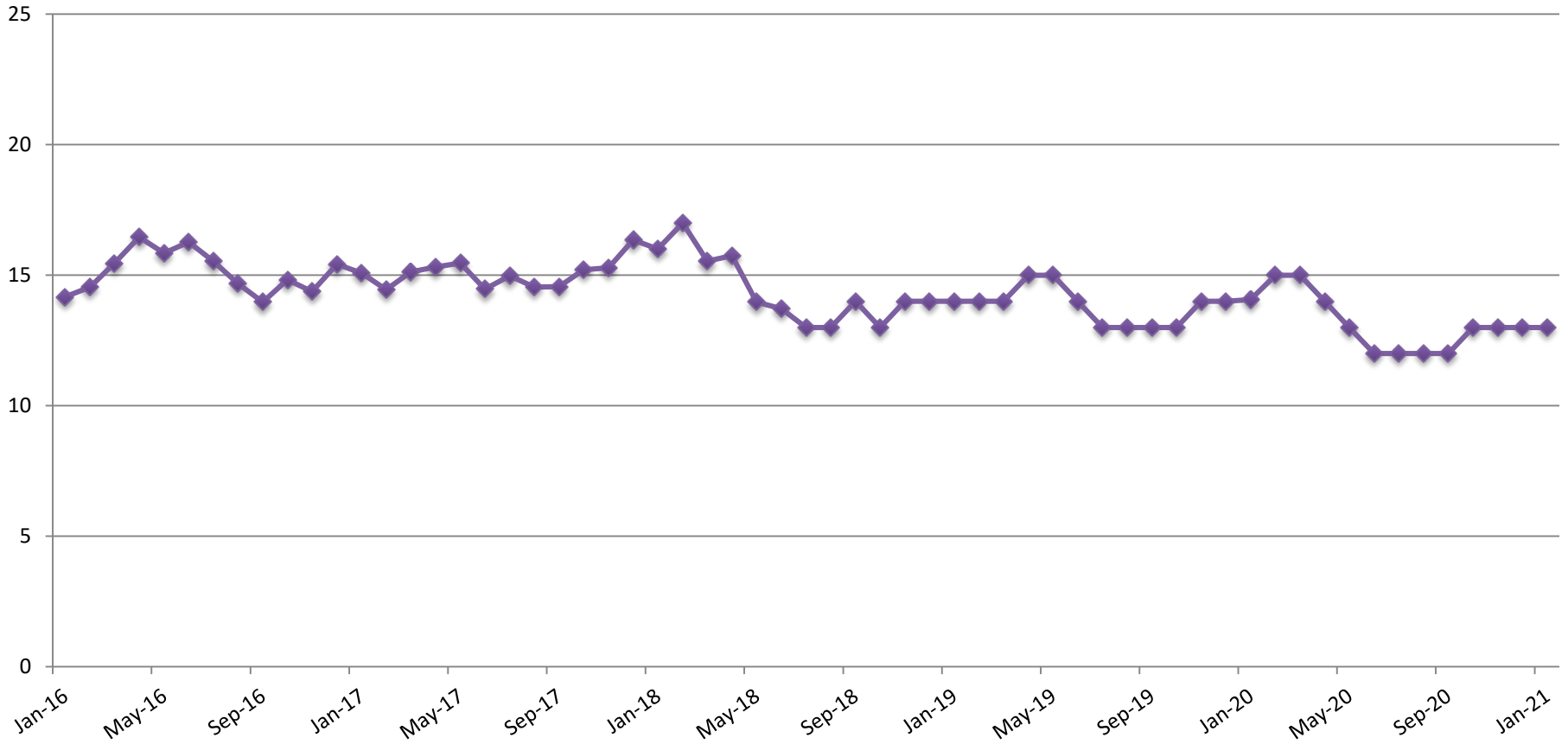
Juvenile Justice Services – Case Types by State Fiscal Year



Juvenile Justice Services – Caseloads

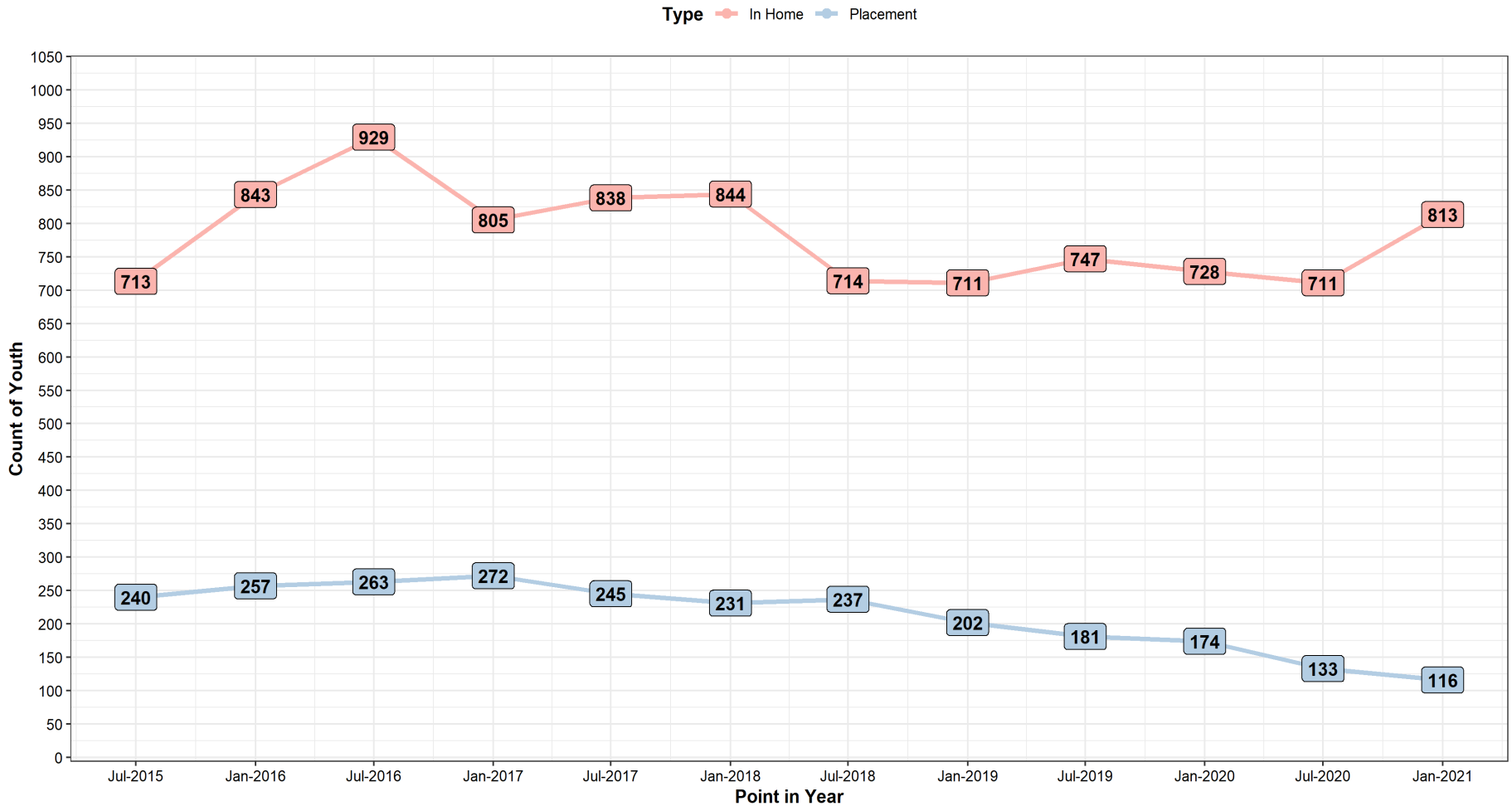
Adjusted Average # of Cases per JPPO

Adjusted Average # of Cases per Actual JPPO



Juvenile Justice Services – Youth in Open Cases

DCYF Juvenile Justice Youth Involvement: SFY 2016 - SFY 2021
Count at the Start of Each Report Period



Data Extracted From Bridges (NH SACWIS) on 2021-02-16



Coming Soon: Juvenile Justice Transformation (SB 94+)

Multidisciplinary Team in Collaboration with National Experts to Improve Juvenile Justice in New Hampshire

Two broad goals/strategies:

- 1) Perform voluntary assessments of youth prior to petitions being filed to identify needs and connect youth with alternatives to court involvement where appropriate. (requires repurposing some JJ staff)
- 2) Amend the rules of juvenile probation to allow for greater flexibility and individuality to ensure probation orders and related efforts are tailored to and focused upon the youth's strengths and needs.



Richard Sarette, Field Administrator, DCYF
Steven Ranfos, Prosecutor-City of Manchester NH
Joseph Ribsam Jr., Director, NH-DCYF
Pamela Jones, Staff Attorney NH Public Defender
Amy McCormack, Associate Bureau Chief Field Services, NH-DCYF
Moira O'Neill, Ph.D., Child Advocate
Nicole Rodler, Juvenile Diversion Coordinator, Rochester PD
Judge Susan W. Ashley - Deputy Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court



Overview – Sununu Youth Services Center

Provide a safe and secure environment for detained and committed youth that receive crisis intervention, mental health, and treatment services in a secure setting. Ensure safety and well being of committed and detained youth and the overall safety of the community.

Sununu Youth Services Center

Services include:

- Treatment Plans
- Clinical and Psychiatric Assessments and Services
- Educational and Vocational Planning/Services
- Medical, Dental, Nutritional Services
- Family Engagement (Visits, Engagement & Development in Treatment)
- Assured Staff and Resident Safety
- Community Re-entry Planning (Early Transition and Community Reintegration)
- Recreational/Experiential and Independent Living Skills
- Reunification/Permanency Planning (Stable Home, Job Placement, Community Connections)

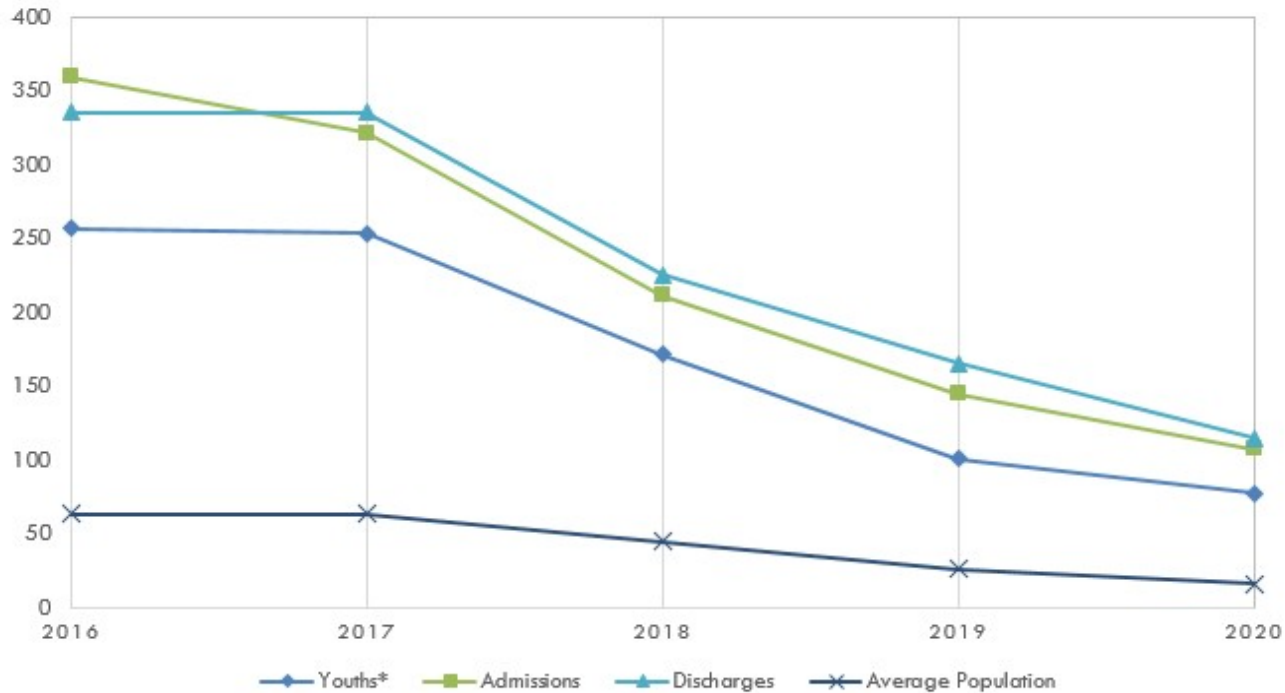
State Mandates

- RSA 169-B – Delinquent Children
- RSA 170-H – Parole of Delinquents
- RSA 170-G – Services for Children, Youth and Families
- RSA 621 – Youth Development Center
- RSA 621-A – Youth Services Center

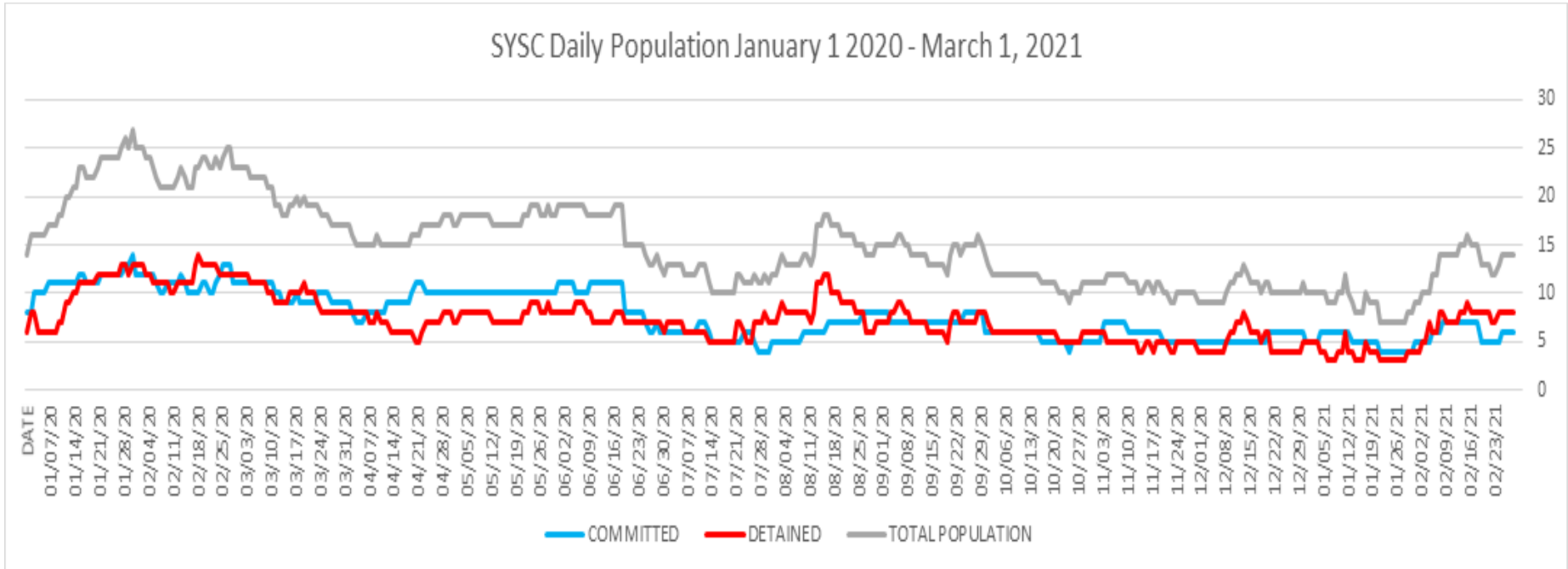


Sununu Youth Services Center – Census by State Fiscal Year

Population															
	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
	COM	DET	TOT	COM	DET	TOT	COM	DET	TOT	COM	DET	TOT	COM	DET	TOT
Youths*	257			254			172			101			78		
Admissions	105	255	360	108	214	322	74	138	212	81	64	145	48	60	108
Discharges	89	247	336	117	219	336	87	139	226	96	70	166	57	58	115
Average Populati	48.0	15.9	63.8	51.7	12.5	64.1	35.3	9.9	45.1	21.2	5.8	26.9	10.5	6.5	16.9
Youth Days	17,468	5,564	23,033	18,755	4,338	23,092	12,754	3,457	16,211	7,738	2,117	9,855	3,827	2,386	6,198



Sununu Youth Services Center – Daily Census



SYSC – Prior Youth Placements and Petitions by State Fiscal Year

Committed Youth					
	SFY 2016	SFY 2017	SFY 2018	SFY 2019	SFY 2020
# Committed at SYSC	105	123	86	59	40
Average Previous Placements	6.4	6.3	6.6	7.8	8.7
Average Petitions	9.7	9.5	9.6	12.2	14.7
Detained Youth					
	SFY 2016	SFY 2017	SFY 2018	SFY 2019	SFY 2020
# Detained at SYSC	210	184	116	58	54
Average Previous Placements	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.6
Average Petitions	7.5	6.8	7.5	11.5	11.0

Source: NH DCYF Program and Case Tracking System

- Youth can be Detained and Committed in the same year.
- The number of petitions includes all delinquency petitions until the end of the State Fiscal Year in which they were at SYSC.



DCYF Key Accomplishments SFY20/21

• **DCYF Core Functionality Restored and Further Progressing:**

- Intake (hotline) making timely decisions and implemented new referral process for lower risk concerns
- Actuarial tools to inform key decision points validated and redesigned
- Reduced caseloads & improved processes improved timeliness of child protection assessments
- Adoption of Safety Culture practices & clinical staff support appears to be reducing turnover

• **DCYF Service Array Redesign to introduce Evidence Based Programs:**

- Service Redesign Request For Information – DHHS record ~40 responses
- Community Based Voluntary Services Contracts Awarded
- First DCYF Evidence Based Program Procurement Forecast posted (<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/documents/procurement-forecast-2020.pdf>)
- Request for Procurement for Multisystemic Therapy (MST) live – others coming soon

• **Additional Support for Transition Aged Youth:**

- Creation & Federal Approval of the HOPE Program – Voluntary Foster Care up to age 21
- YV Life Set grant/contract providing an evidence based support for transition aged youth
- Partnerships with housing authorities for Fostering Youth Independence housing vouchers

• **New & Expanded Programing to Support Children, Youth, and Families:**

- Strength to Succeed peer support for parents with SUD
- Expanded MLADC & Family Violence Specialists co-located in District Offices
- Roadmap to Reunification program established to better support parents and engage foster parents in family efforts reunification
- Partnerships with housing authorities for Family Unification Program housing vouchers
- Partnership with Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health for System of Care transformation being implemented, including redesign of residential care, clinical assessment for entry, and wraparound for community reintegration
- Partnerships with DPHS & DEHS for expanded support to strengthen families to forestall DCYF involvement – including Family Resource Center Facilitating Organization & new Kinship Navigator programs



DCYF – Key Challenges Ahead



Housing instability is a significant contributing factor to children entering foster care, a barrier to reunification, and a challenge for transition aged youth.



Recruitment and retention of staff; while considerable progress has been made, turnover persists at an unhealthy rate.



Family strengthening programs for families prior to DCYF involvement. Intake has been referring more families to Family Resource Centers and related programs when a child protection investigation is not warranted, but capacity is strained.



Identity & Tenure of Key Division Leaders

DCYF Director
Joseph Ribsam Jr.
~3.5 Years

General Counsel & Legislative Liaison

Rebecca Ross
~2.5 Years

Field Services (CP & JJ)

Sherry Ermel
~1.5 years
~21 years @ DCYF

Chief of Operations

Marie Noonan
~ 2 years
~21 years @ DCYF

Community, Family, & Program Support

Michael Donati
~3 years
~18 years @ DCYF

Sununu Youth Services Center

Rhonda Chasse
~2.5 years
~23 years @ DCYF

Professional & Strategic Development

Kimberly Crowe
~3 Years
~14 years @ DCYF

Evaluation, Analytics, & Reporting


Laila Robak
~1 month

Business Information Systems

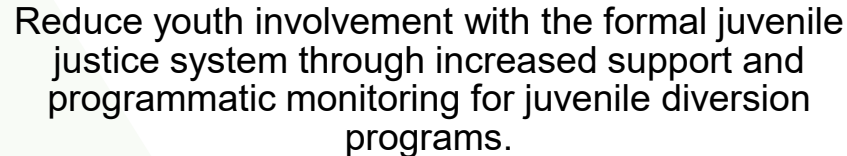
Steven DeGiso
~14 years



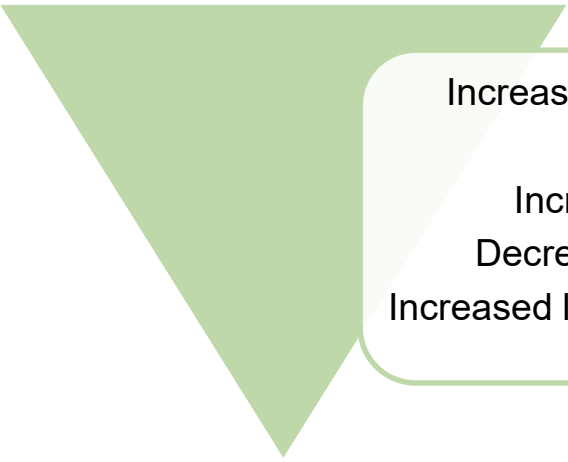
5% Incremental / decremented Outcome



Reduce children & families being referred to and entering the formal child protection system through increased support for Family Resource Centers & other parent/family strengthening programs.



Reduce youth involvement with the formal juvenile justice system through increased support and programmatic monitoring for juvenile diversion programs.



Increased caseloads/poor quality assessments
Increased recidivism
Increased children in out-of-home care
Decreased family preservation/reunification
Increased long-term demand, likely yielding increased long-term costs



DCYF Prioritized Needs

		Request SFY22	Request SFY23	HB1 SFY22	HB1 SFY23	HB2
<u>SYSC</u>	Utilities	583K	583K	0	0	0
	Barn Roof & Boiler	425K	0	0	0	0

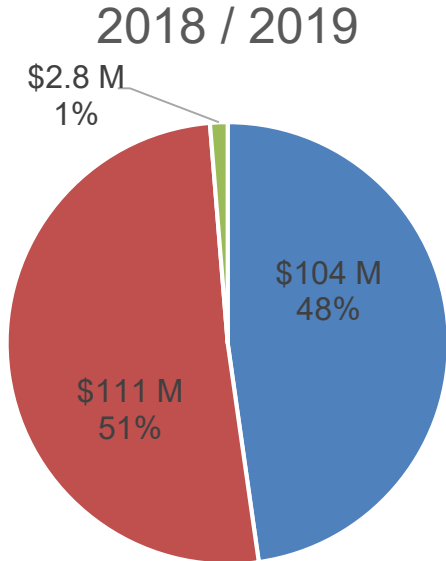


Child Protection Staffing

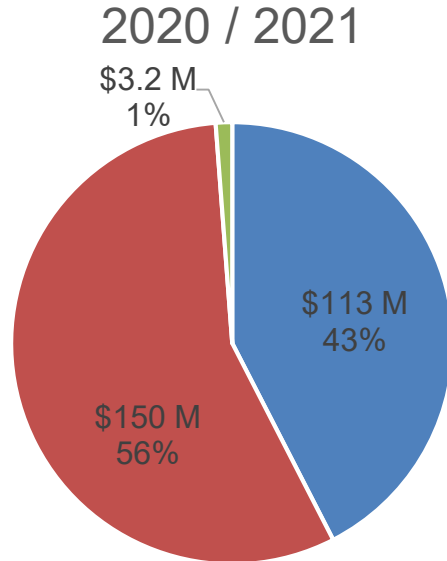
Governor Recommended Positions SFY22	%	4210 Child Protection Accounting Unit
27	5%	2956 – Director’s Office
469 (22 unfunded)	88%	2957 – Child Protection
18	3%	2960 – Org’l Learning & Quality Improv
19	4%	2961 – Foster Care Health Program
1	0%	2970 – Teen Independent Living



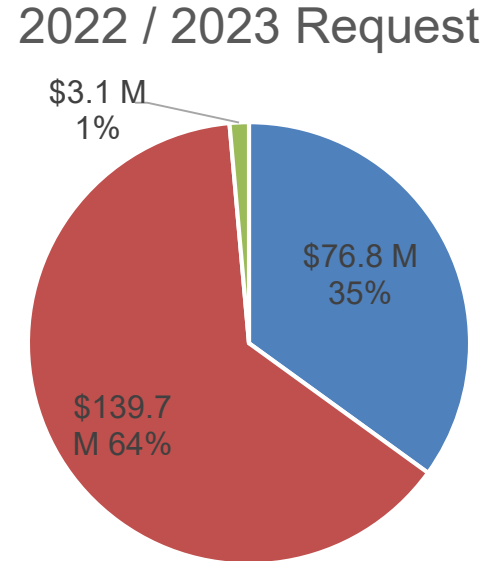
4210 Budget



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other Funds



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other Funds



- Federal Funds
- General Funds
- Other Funds

- DCYF Medicaid moved to Medicaid Budget
- SSBG & Kinship Programs moved to DEHS
- FRC Facilitating Organization Funding moved to DEHS as an unfunded Prioritized Need
- Parental Assistance Programs moved to DPHS as an unfunded Prioritized Need



Child Protection Accounting Units

Activity-Accounting Unit	Accounting Unit Title	Division	Bureau	Budget Book Page #	Budget Briefing Book Page #
4210-2956	Director's Office	DCYF	CP	933	6
4210-2957	Child Protection	DCYF	CP	934	10
4210-2958	Child – Family Services	DCYF	CP	936	13
4210-2959	Domestic Violence Programs	DCYF	CP	937	19
4210-2960	Org'l Learning & Quality Improvement	DCYF	CP	938	21
4210-2961	Foster Care Health Program	DCYF	CP	940	24
4210-2964	Worker's Compensation	DCYF	CP	940	-
4210-2967	Child Welfare Service IV-B	DCYF	CP	941	-
4210-2968	Title IV-B Subpart I	DCYF	CP	942	-
4210-2969	Child Abuse Prevention - CPTA	DCYF	CP	943	-
4210-2970	Teen Independent Living	DCYF	CP	943	-



Child Protection Accounting Units (cont.)

Activity-Accounting Unit	Accounting Unit Title	Division	Bureau	Budget Book Page #	Budget Briefing Book Page #
4210-2971	Adolescent After Care Service	DCYF	CP	944	-
4210-2972	Adolescent Purchased Service	DCYF	CP	945	-
4210-2973	Promoting Safe-Stable Families	DCYF	CP	946	-
4210-2974	Adoption Services	DCYF	CP	946	-
4210-2975	Pass Thru Grants Title 1	DCYF	CP	938	-
4210-8903	Adoption Trauma Grant	DCYF	CP	939	-



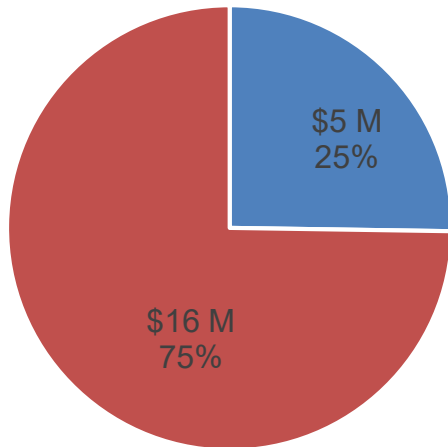
Juvenile Justice Staffing

Governor Recommended Positions SFY22	%	4214 Juvenile Justice Services Accounting Unit
107	99%	7905 – Juvenile Field Services
1	1%	7906 – Offc Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)



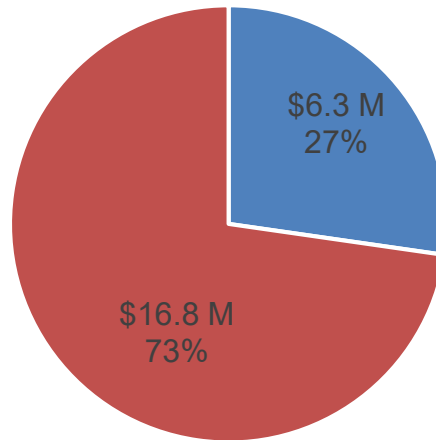
4214 Budget

2018 / 2019



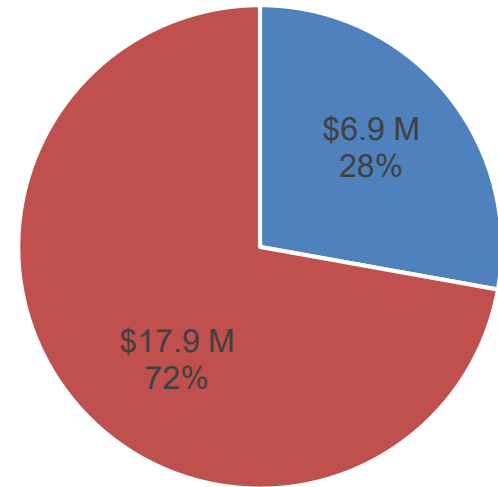
- Federal Funds
- General Funds

2020 / 2021



- Federal Funds
- General Funds

2022 / 2023 Request



- Federal Funds
- General Funds



Juvenile Justice Services Accounting Units

Activity-Accounting Unit	Accounting Unit Title	Division	Bureau	Budget Book Page #	Budget Briefing Book Page #
4214-7905	Juvenile Field Staff	DCYF	JJS	953	25
4214-7906	OJJDP	DCYF	JJS	955	-



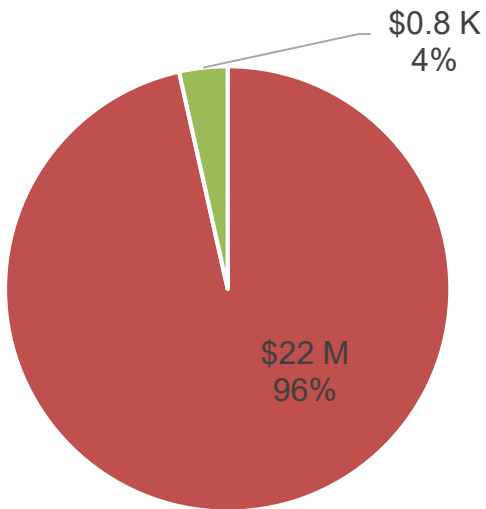
Sununu Youth Services Center Staffing

Governor Recommended Positions SFY22	%	4215 Sununu Youth Services Center Accounting Unit
4	3%	7909 – Director’s Office
6 (1 unfunded)	4%	1203 – Food Prep
11 (3 unfunded)	8%	7914 - Maintenance
8	6%	7915 – Health Services
78	57%	7916 – Rehabilitative Programs
30 (18 unfunded)	22%	7917 – Rehabilitative Education



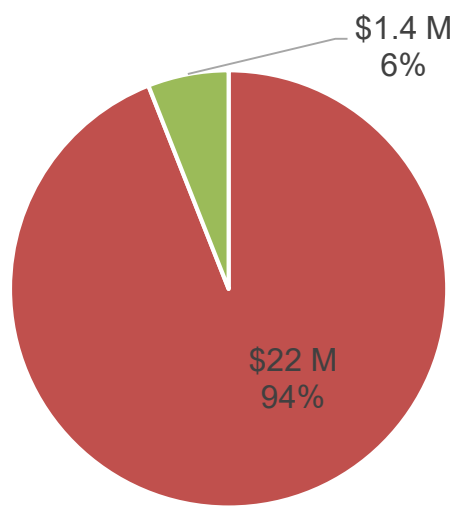
4215 Budget

2018 / 2019



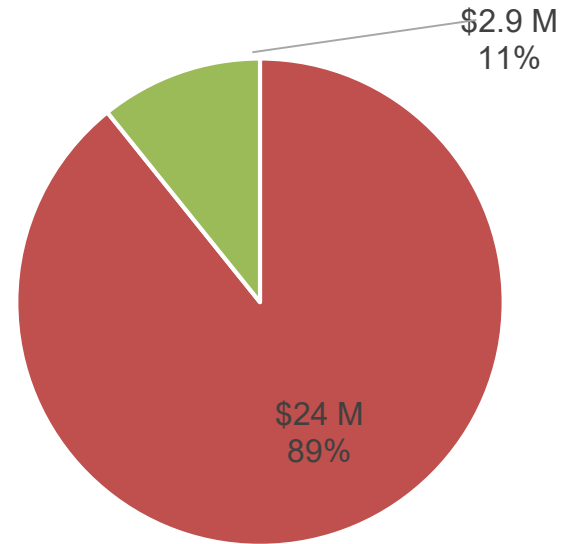
- General Funds
- Other Funds

2020 / 2021



- General Funds
- Other Funds

2022 / 2023 Request



- General Funds
- Other Funds



Sununu Youth Services Center Accounting Units

Activity-Accounting Unit	Accounting Unit Title	Division	Bureau	Budget Book Page #	Budget Briefing Book Page #
4215-7909	Director's Office	DCYF	SYSC	956	28
4215-7911	Workers Compensation	DCYF	SYSC	957	-
4215-7912	Unemployment Compensation	DCYF	SYSC	958	-
4215-7913	Material Management	DCYF	SYSC	958	-
4215-1203	Food Prep	DCYF	SYSC	959	-
4215-7914	Maintenance	DCYF	SYSC	960	29
4215-7915	Health Services	DCYF	SYSC	961	29
4215-7916	Rehabilitative Programs	DCYF	SYSC	962	29
4215-7917	Rehabilitative Education	DCYF	SYSC	963	29
4215-7919	Chapter 1 Neglected - Disad	DCYF	SYSC	964	-

