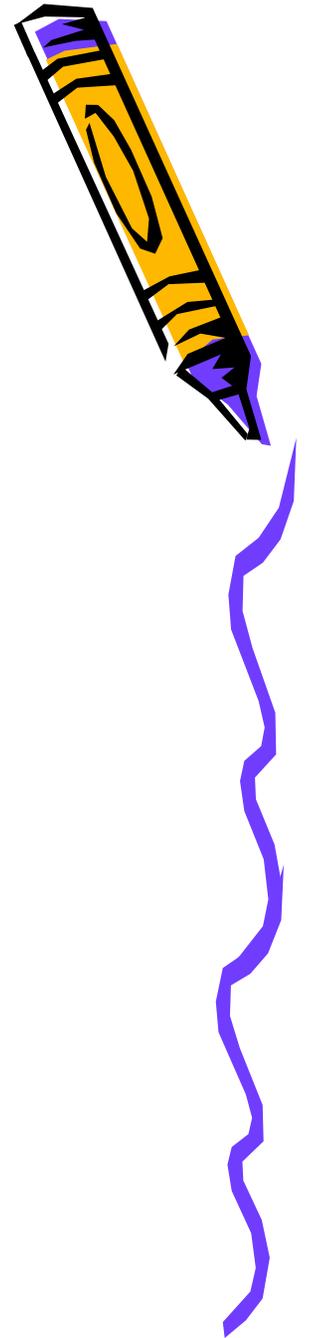
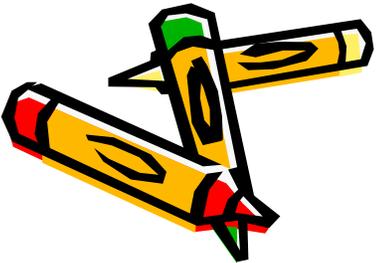


**Role of Courts in
Achieving
Permanency**

**CT Law Forum on Youth Permanency
April 24, 2015**

GOALS

- How did we get here
- From the bench
- From the agency
- Together
- Leadership

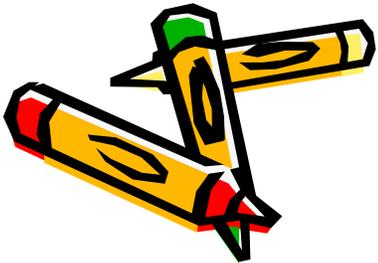


YOU' LL NEVER
GET TO WORK
ON TIME
HAHA!!



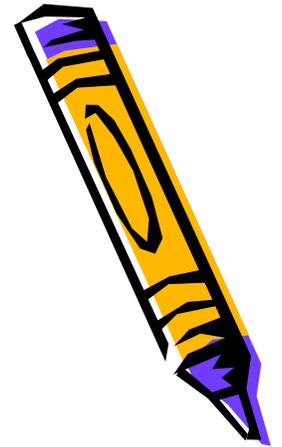
History

- 18th century - Children were indentured to work and learn a trade
- 1832 Cholera epidemic- orphan asylums
- 1853 response to them was NY Children's Aid Society- 1853-1890 moved 92,000 kids to Midwest- orphan trains
- 1886- Charles Birtwell of Boston champions right of children to return home
- 1909- White House Conference adopts Birtwell's push- Foster care is temporary and Children not to pay for placement



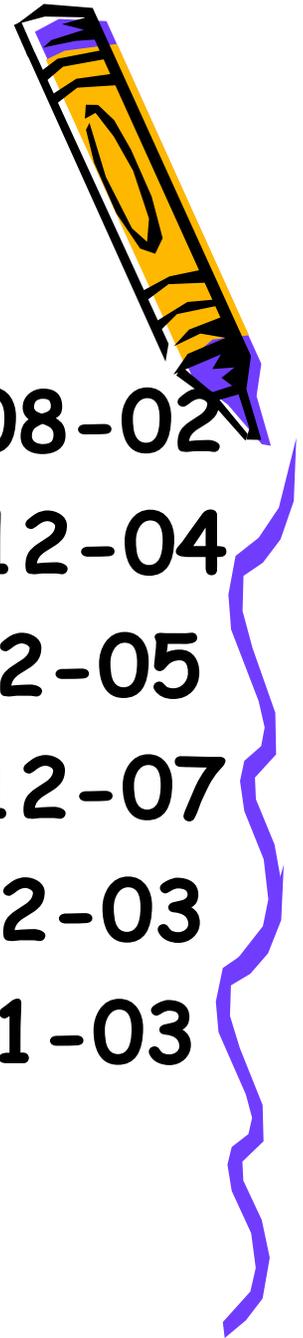
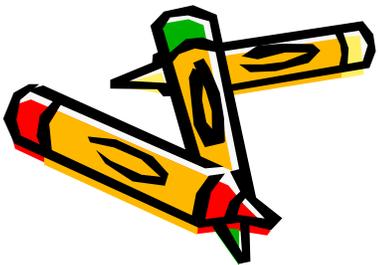
History

- 1974- CAPTA
- 1978- ICWA
- 1980- AACWA- 96-272
- 1993- Family Preservation Act- CIP
- 1994- MEPA
- 1995- Block grants- waiver
- 1997- ASFA
- 1999- Chaffee Act
- 2008- Fostering Connections
- 2011- Services Improvement & Innovations
- 2012- Commission on Fatalities
- 2013- Human trafficking bills



The Information Memorandas

- Case Worker Visits IM 08-02
- Social & Emotional Well- Being IM 12-04
- Finance Waiver IM 12-05
- CQI IM 12-07
- Use of Psychotropic Meds IM 12-03
- LGBTQ IM 11-03



ILLITERATE?

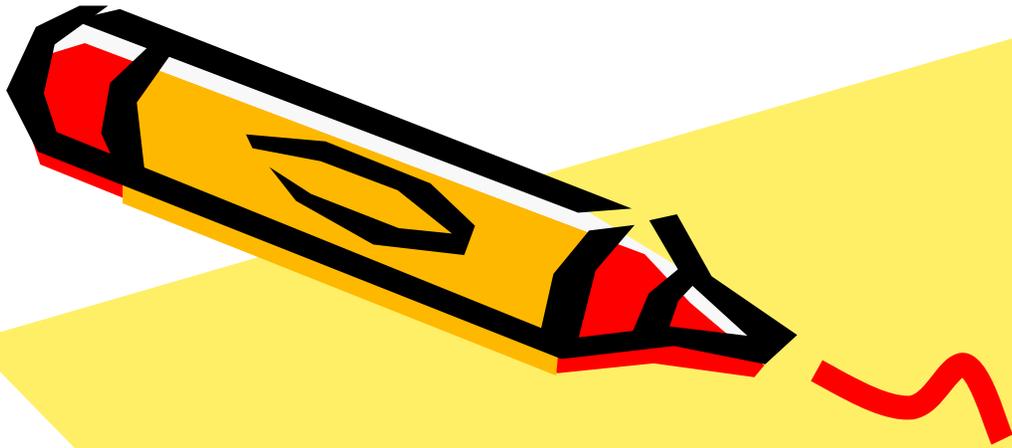
WRITE FOR FREE HELP.

ILLITERACY FOUNDATION
806 MAIN STREET

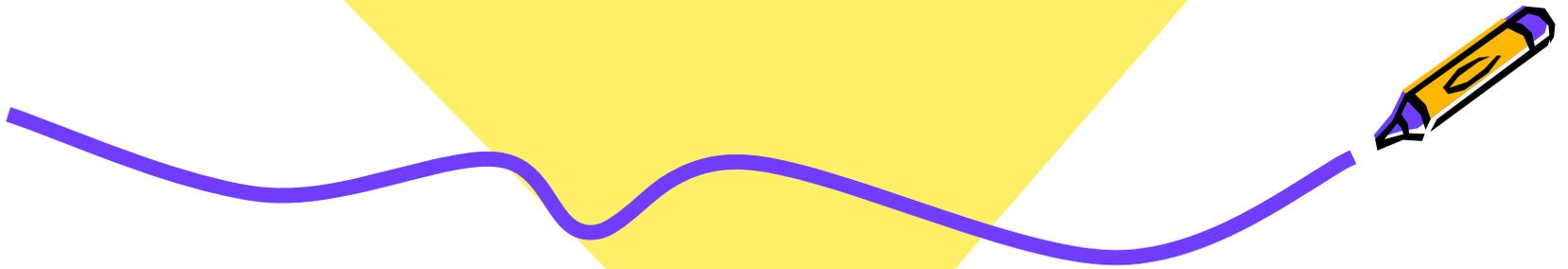
WATER

www.StrangeCosmos.com



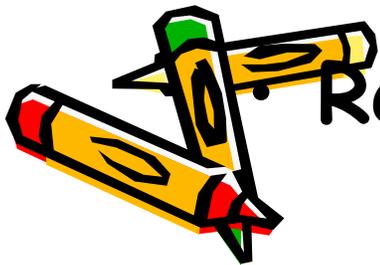


Doing Things Early

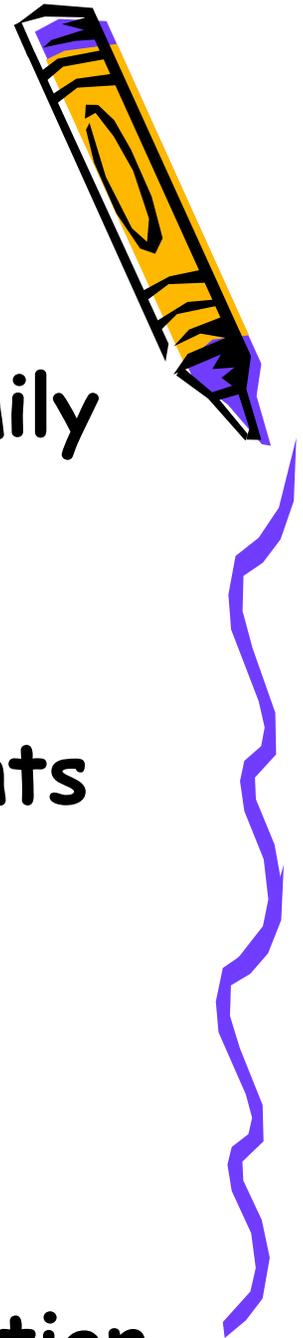


Early

- Find absent parent/father/family
- Extended family involvement
- Establish paternity
- Good assessments-reassessments
- Concurrent planning
- File contempt when there is no/little compliance

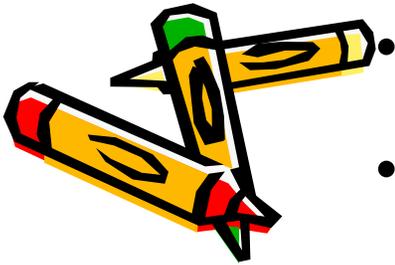


- Reward families for changes and active positive participation



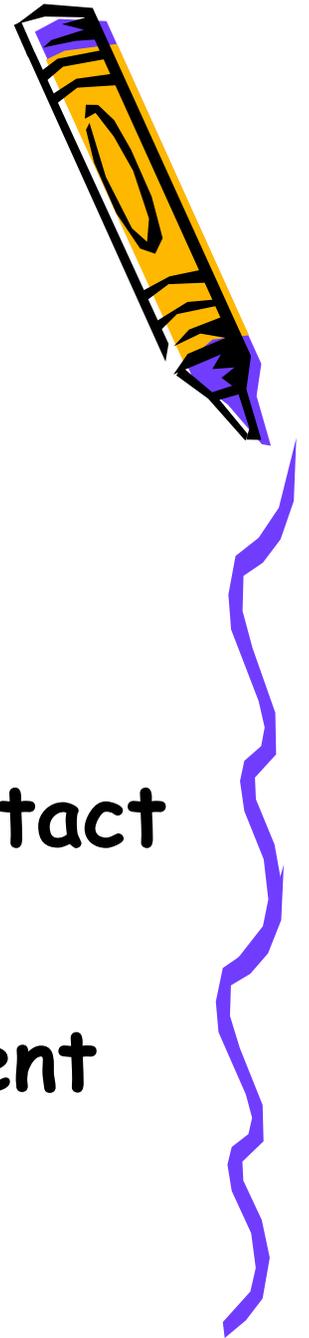
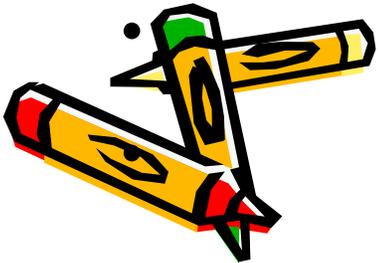
To Improve

- Agency must be excellent
- Case loads manageable- for all
- 30-30-30
- Frequent contacts with others
- Engage informal family supports
- Time- time- time AND FAST!!
- Together- together
- MEDIA
- Family/team meetings



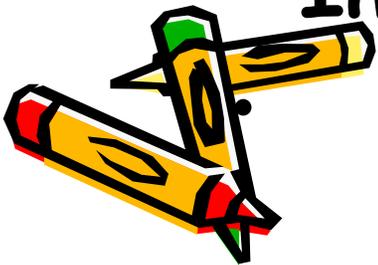
30 Minutes

- Who takes the phone call
- What questions are asked
- What is the follow through
- How is the information assessed
- Who makes the first personal contact
- How is the message conveyed
- What is the request for involvement
- Who is invited to the table
- What happens to the child



30 Hours

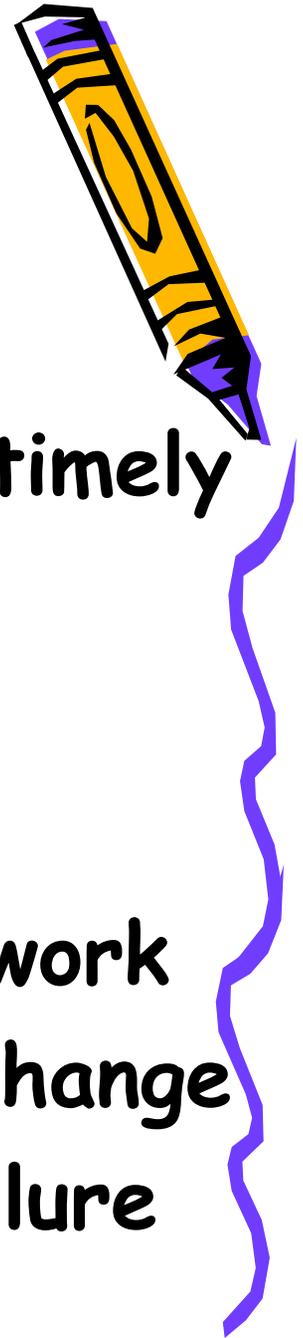
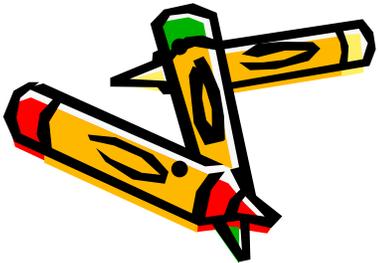
- The decision on placement of child
- Visits- parents and siblings
- Assessment of risk/safety
- Services to address risk/safety
- Timeliness of service start
- Location of service delivery
- Assistance for proper referrals
- Involvement of support network
- Follow up of assigned staff



30 Days

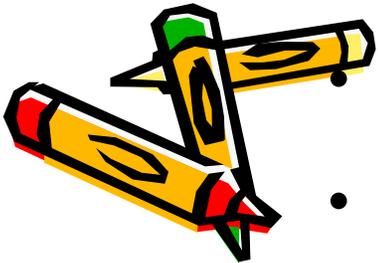
- Is there participation
- Are the right services available timely
- Additional resources
- Re-assessment of risk/safety
- Re-assessment of service needs
- Continue to increase support network
- Is the service working- if not, change

Consequences for service failure
Reward for service success

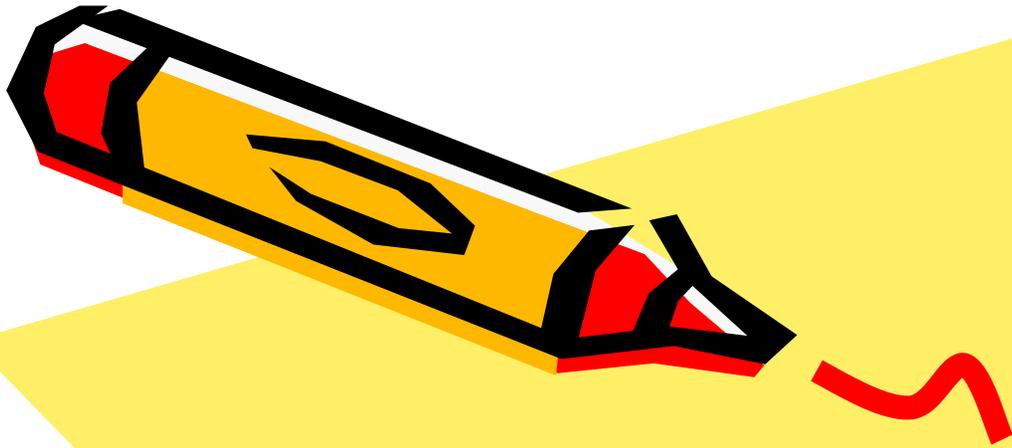


Things to Look At

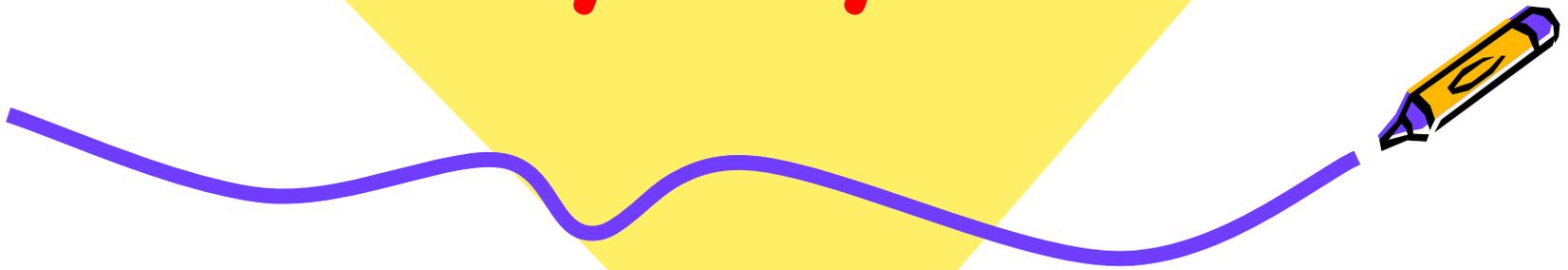
- Keeping kids in home with services
- Kids in care too long
- Cases open too long
- Early and # of family meetings
- Educational advocates
- Health care initiatives-
- Kids aging out
- Kids in home- Parents out
- DATA, DATA, DATA,







Who Likes Change
Anyway?



RED

YELLOW

GREEN

BLUE

RED

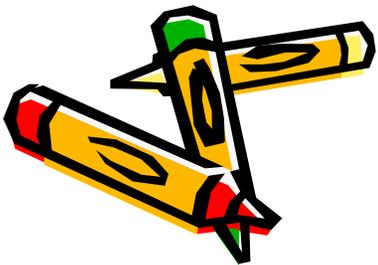
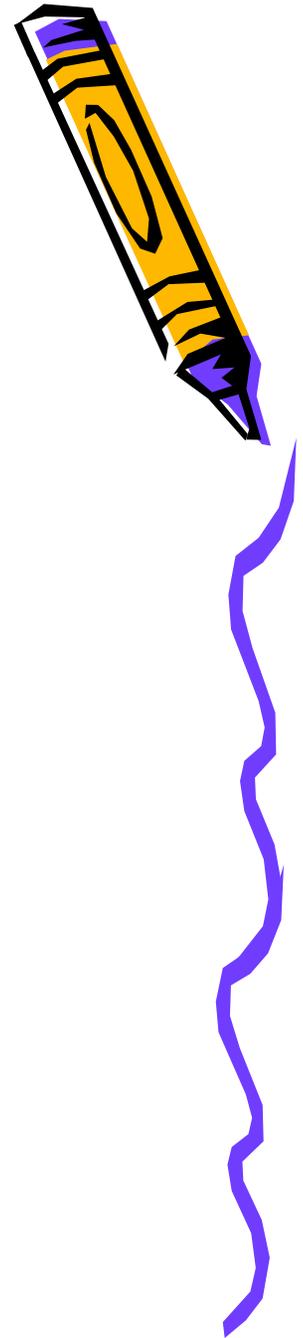
BLUE

YELLOW

GREEN

BLUE

RED



Statements of Change



- If you want to make enemies, try to change something

Woodrow Wilson

- The main changers in this life are the people who want to change everything- or nothing

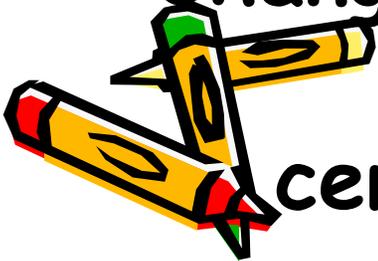
Lady Astor

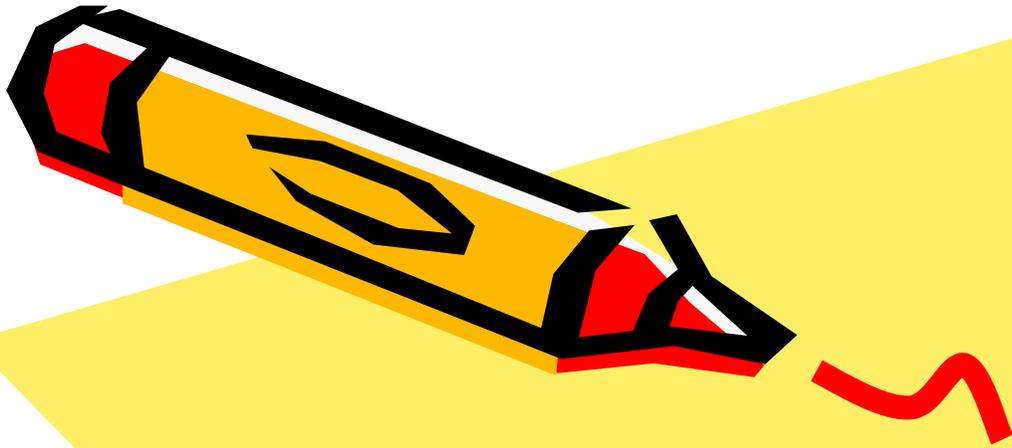
- If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less.

Gen. Eric Shinseki,
Former Army Chief of Staff

- Change is the law of life. Those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future

John F. Kennedy

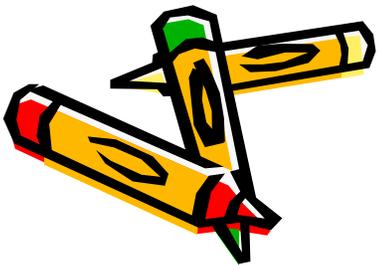
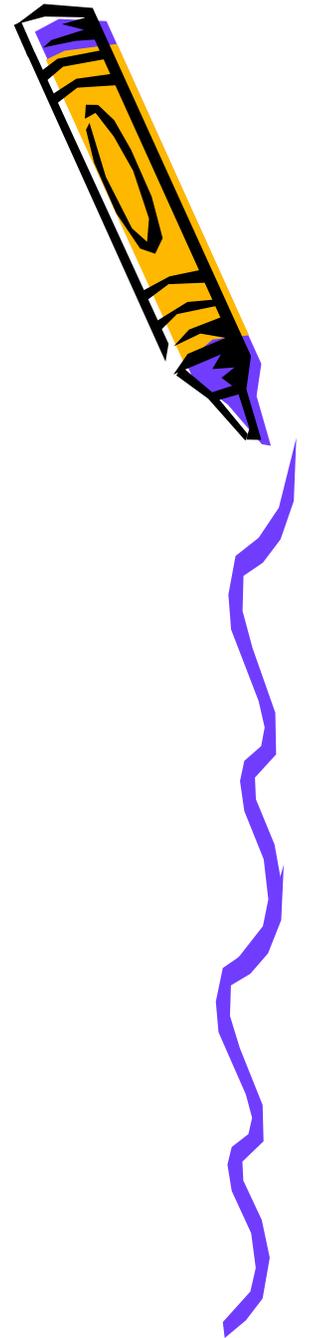




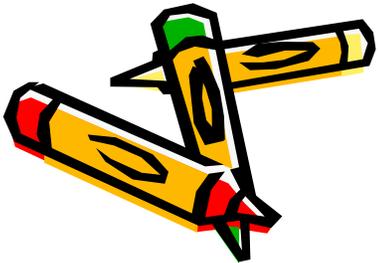
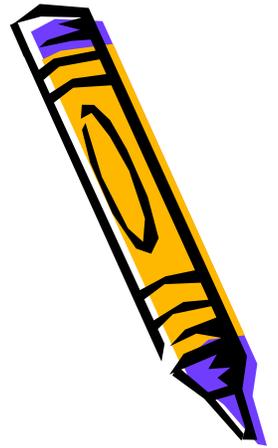
Things I Have
Learned



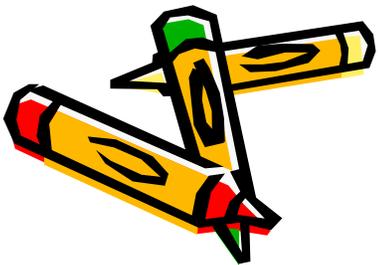
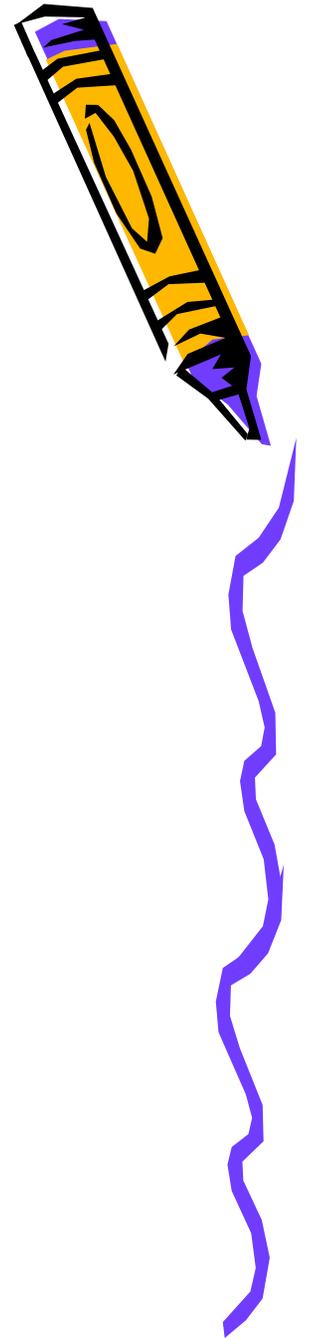
If the agency
isn't working well,
the system won't
either



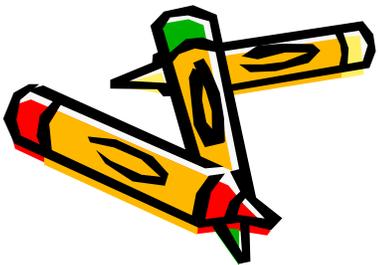
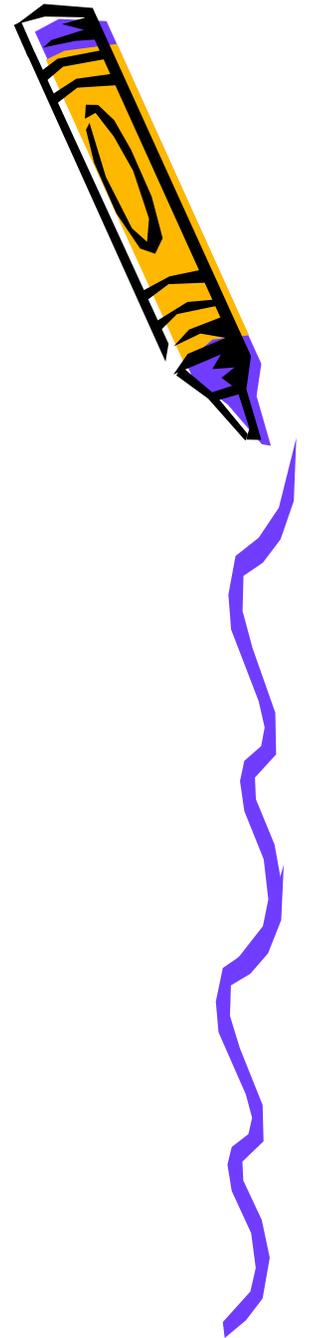
**Caseloads are
important!!**



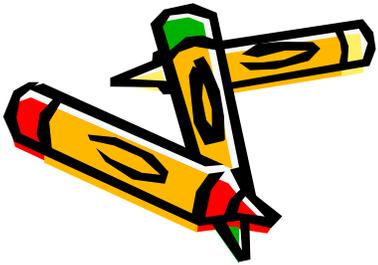
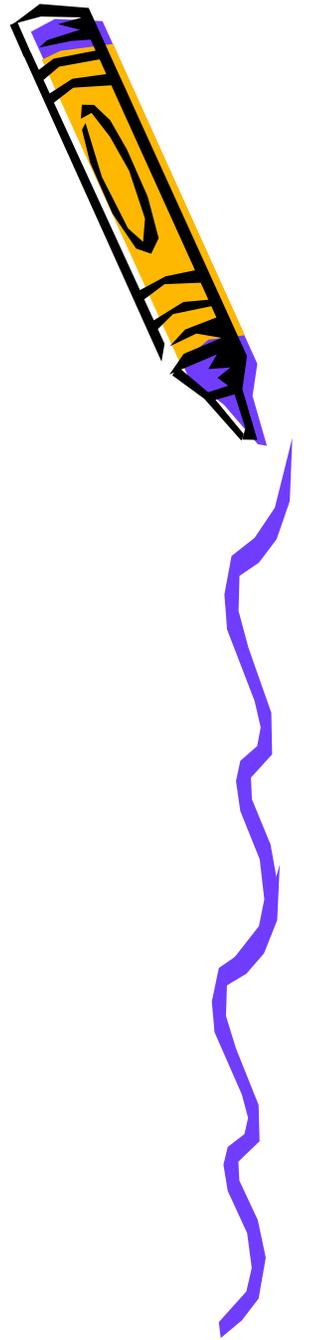
The whole system
tends to keep
doing things the
same way



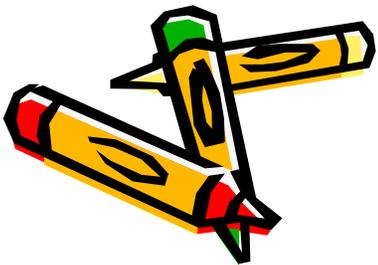
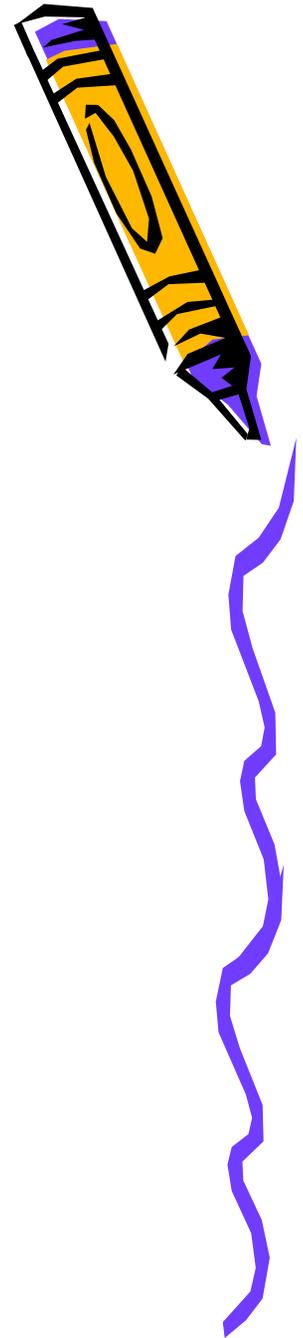
Change comes
from a few and
threatens many



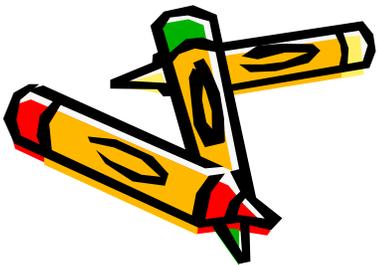
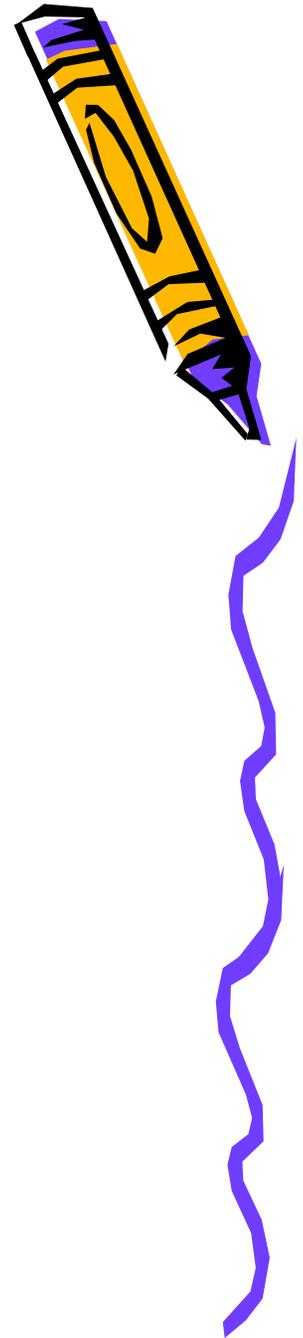
A Judge can fix
a little but not
the whole thing



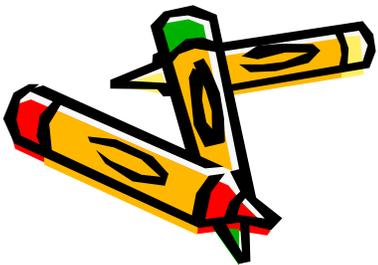
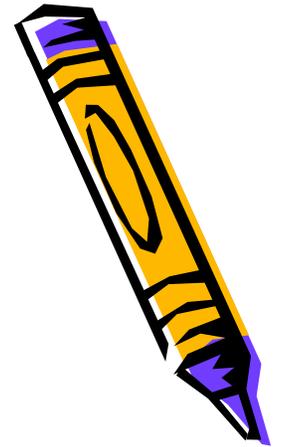
**Money is
important**



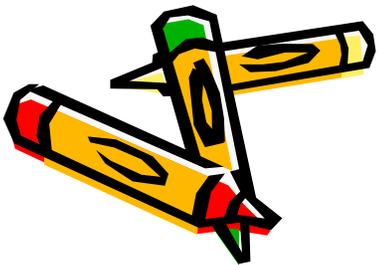
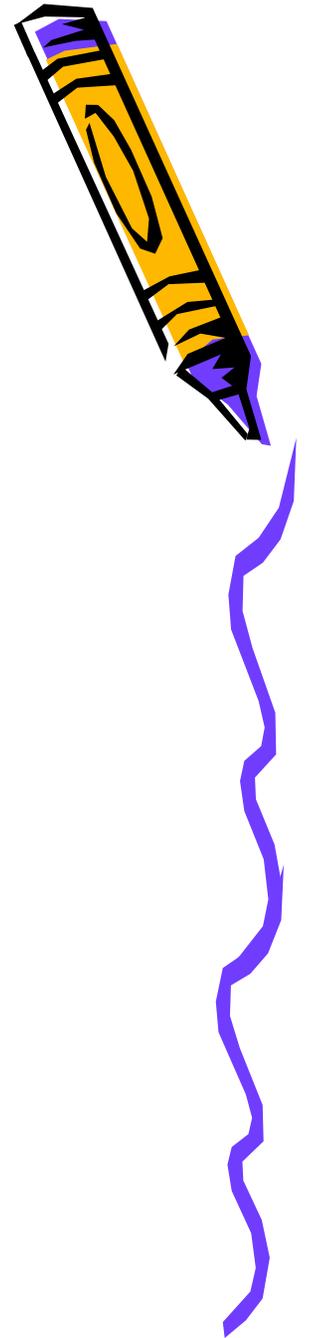
Leadership Matters



The only way to
fix it is to....

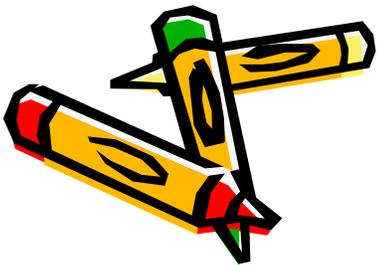
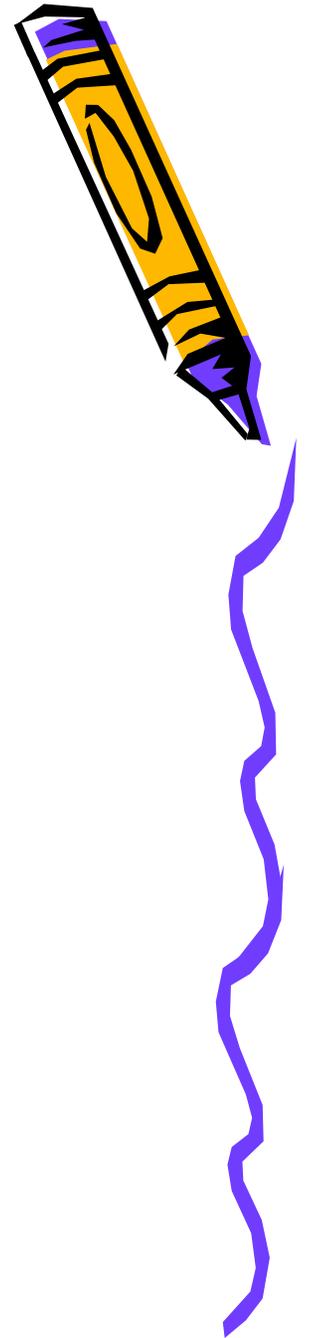


Judge John Specia
Commissioner-
Texas



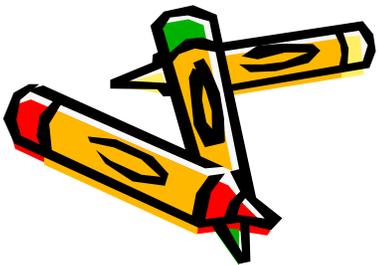
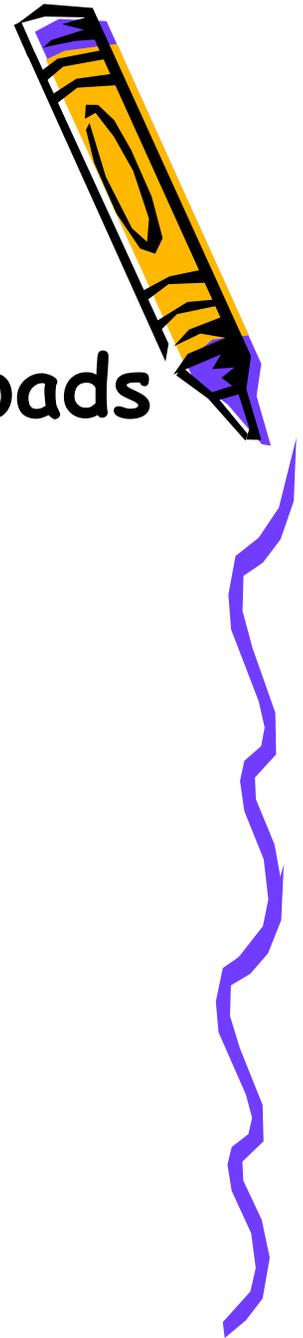
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity of the system



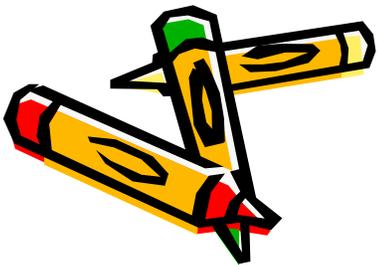
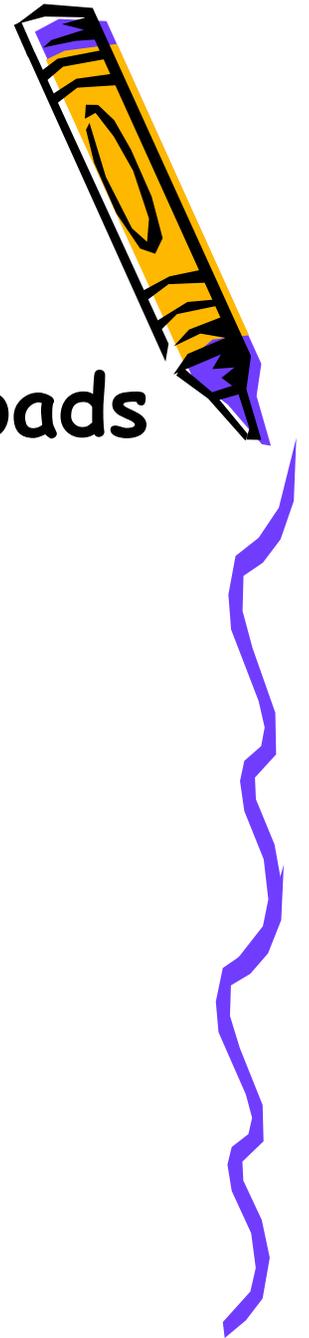
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of Caseworker caseloads



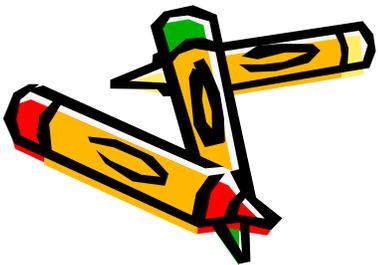
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of Caseworker caseloads
- Data is available



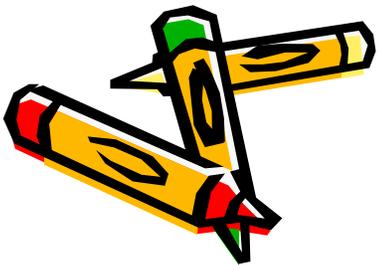
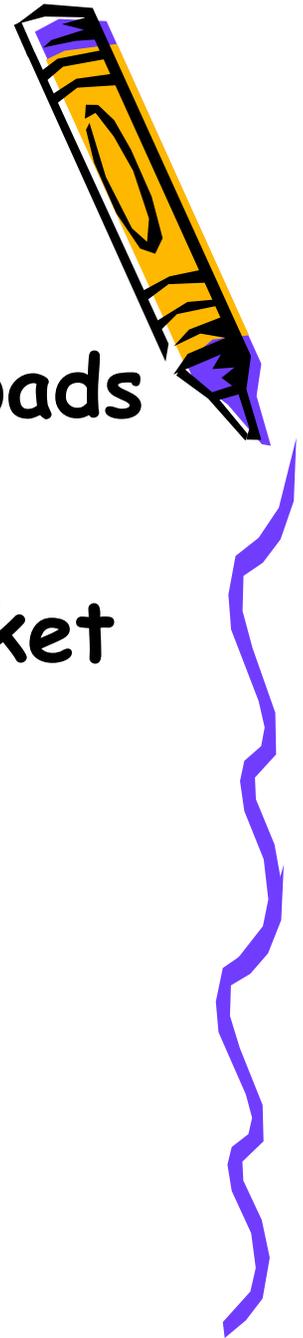
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of Caseworker caseloads
- Data is available
- Problem with over scheduled docket



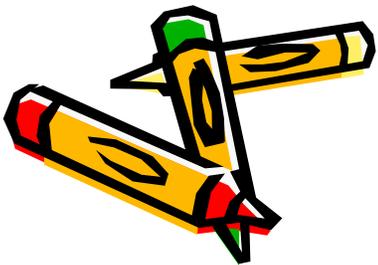
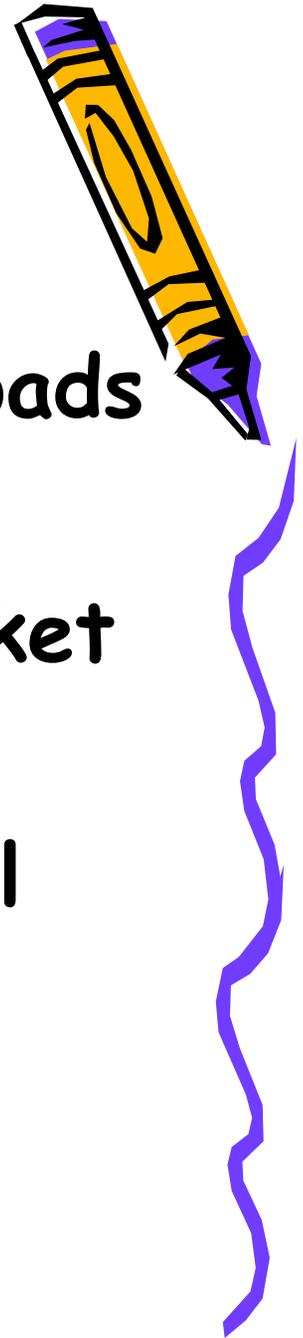
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of caseworker caseloads
- Data is available
- Problem with over scheduled docket
- Value of those close to child



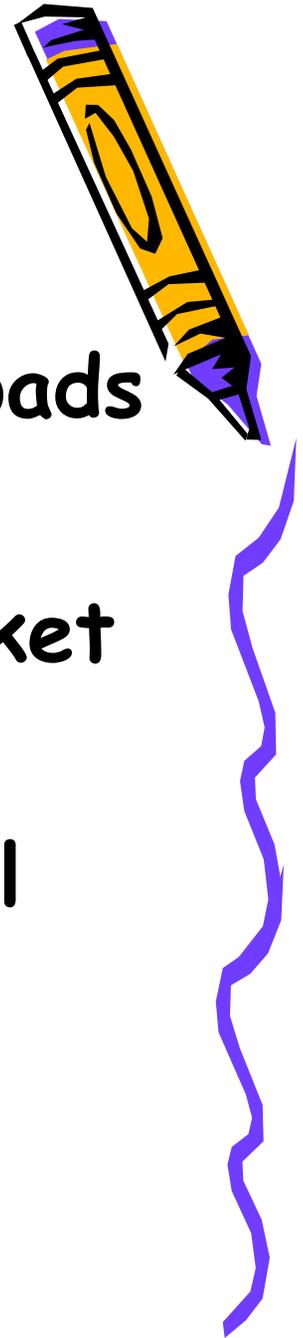
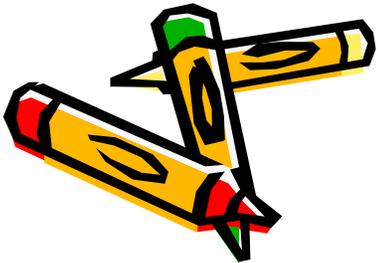
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of caseworker caseloads
- Data is available
- Problem with over scheduled docket
- Value of those close to child
- Removal from home is a **BIG** deal



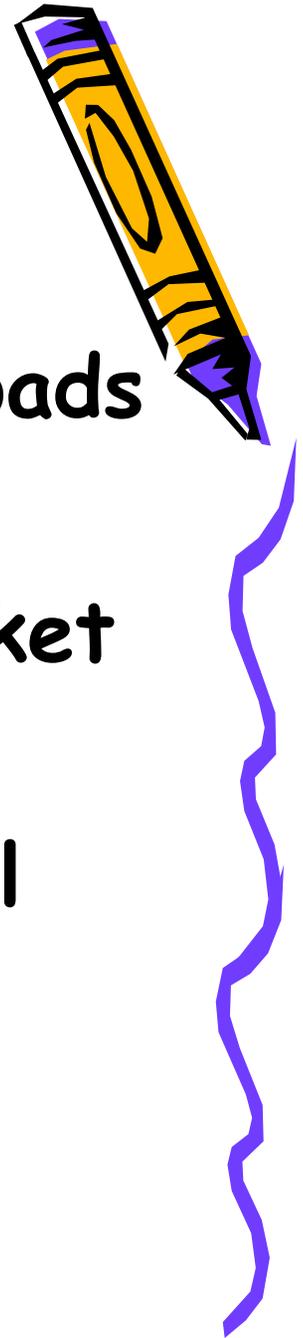
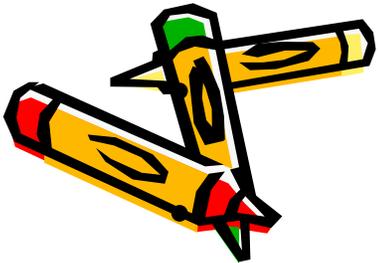
I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of caseworker caseloads
- Data is available
- Problem with over scheduled docket
- Value of those close to child
- Removal from home is a BIG deal
- Always consider kinship care



I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of caseworker caseloads
- Data is available
- Problem with over scheduled docket
- Value of those close to child
- Removal from home is a BIG deal
- Always consider kinship care
- **URGENCY**

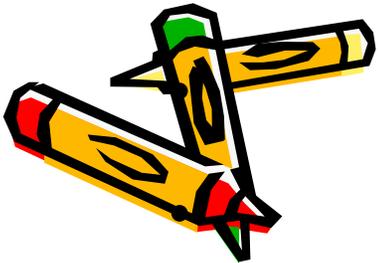
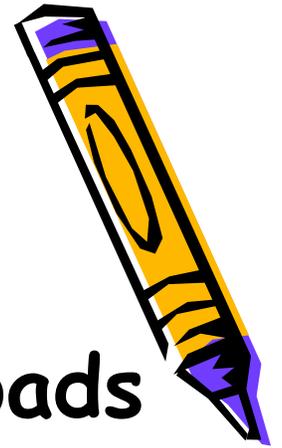


I Wish I Had Known

- Complexity
- Importance of caseworker caseloads
- Data is available
- Problem with over scheduled docket
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• **URGENCY**

How long kids are in care



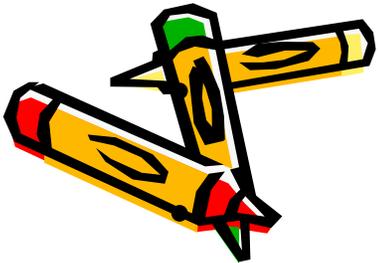
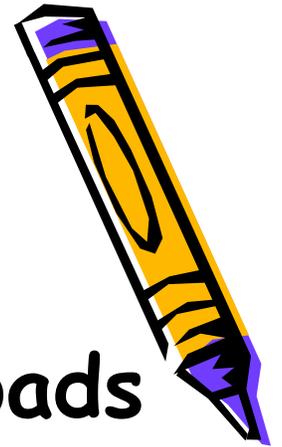
I Wish I Had Known

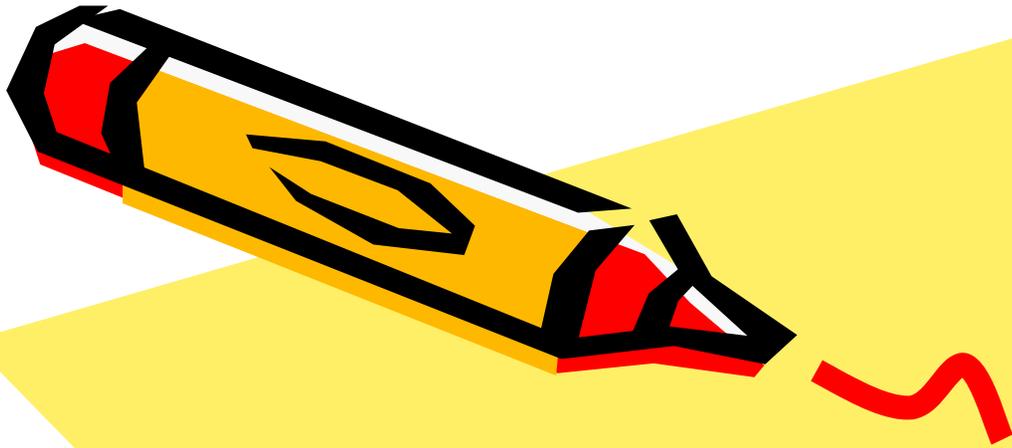
- Complexity
- Importance of caseworker caseloads
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• **URGENCY**

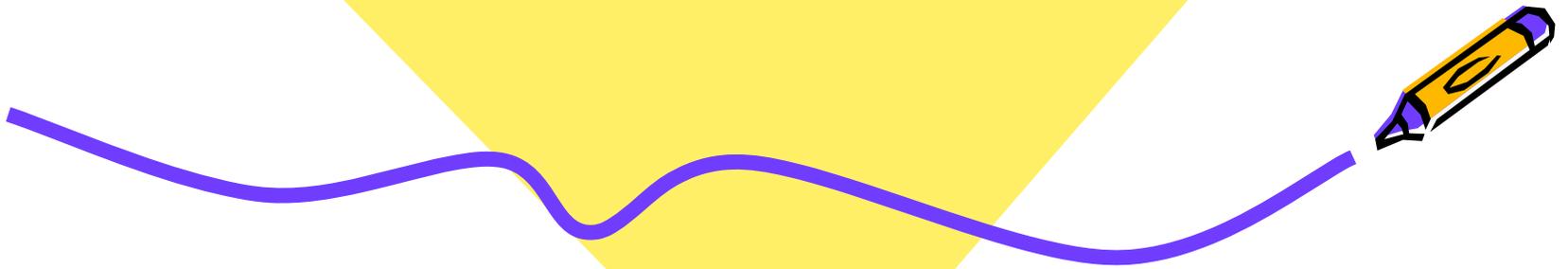
How long kids are in care

Children should lead normal lives





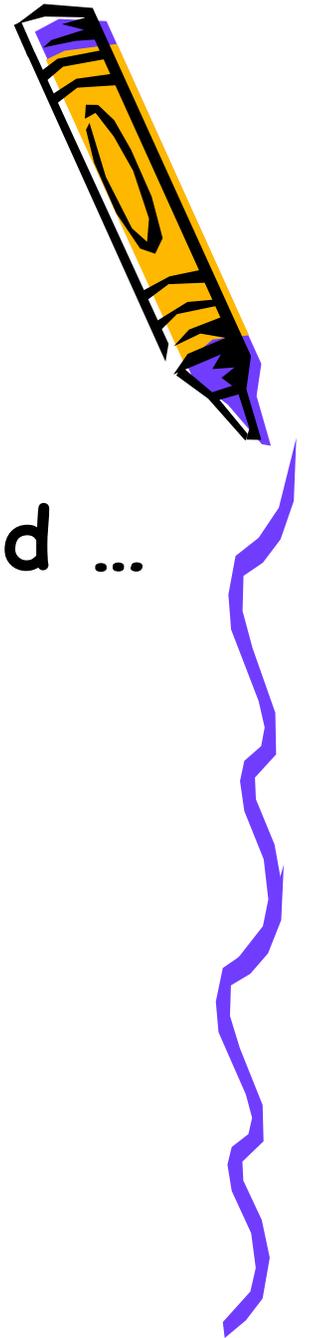
INITIATIVES



The Executive Branch

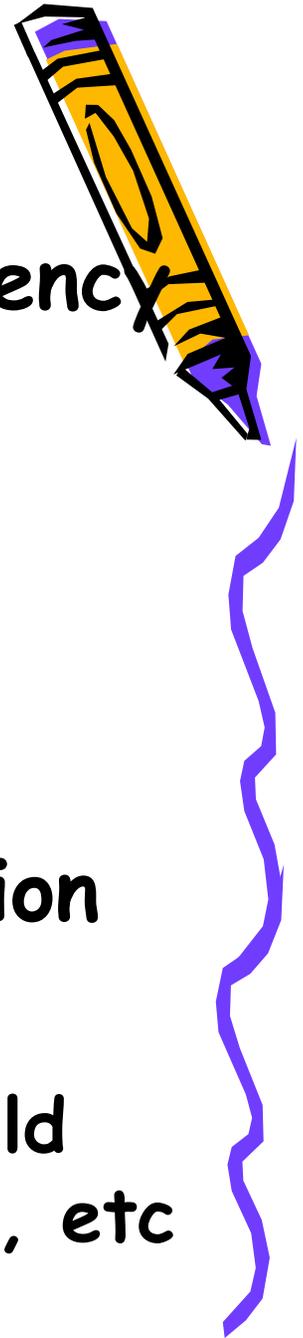
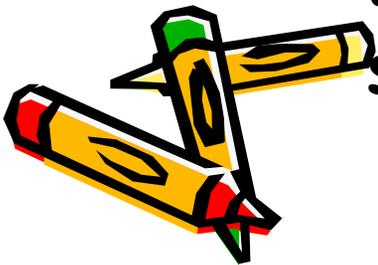
- This is the primary valve
- Make sure it is working well
- Former NY commissioner Bell said ...
- Meet regularly with others
- Communicate often
- Challenge status quo
- Support others to improve

BE PREPARED



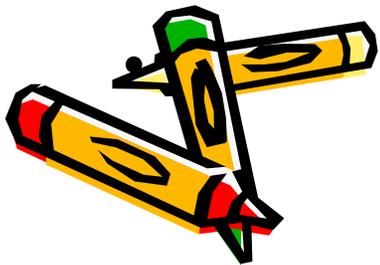
The Judiciary

- Move the cases- timely permanency
- No/limited continuances
- Know about the CFSR/PIP
- Know service delivery system
- Facilitate meetings
- Encourage full family participation
- Engage other agency systems:
 - Education, mental health, DD, child support, United Way, foundations, etc

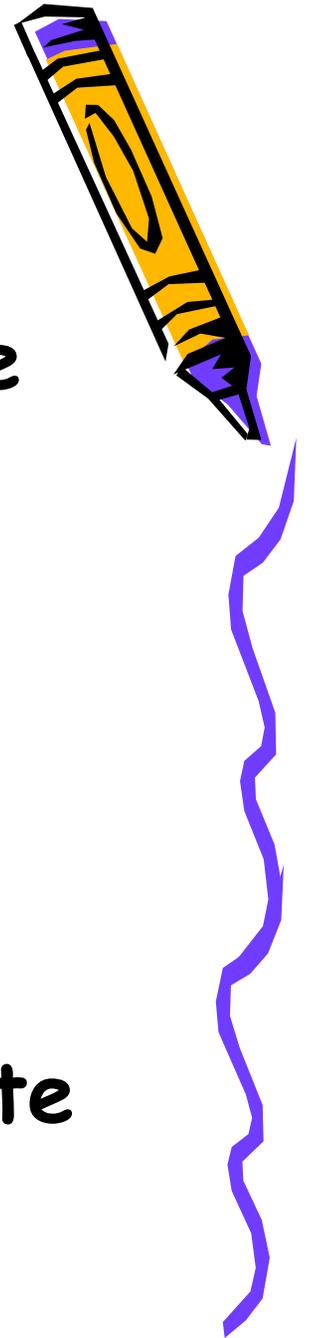


Advocates

- Be aware that change is inevitable
- Help find new things going on
- Participate in the change process
- Defend changes as a part of life
- Be prepared for accountability
- Recognize the changing economics
- Be prepared to merge & consolidate

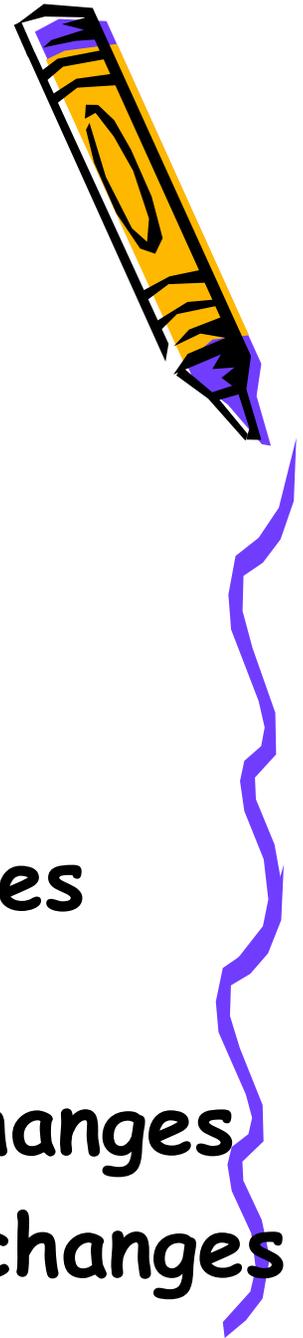
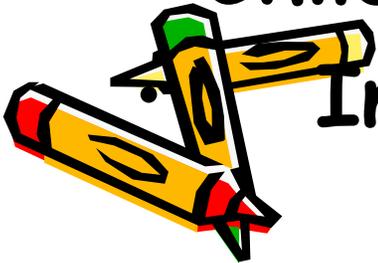


Innovate



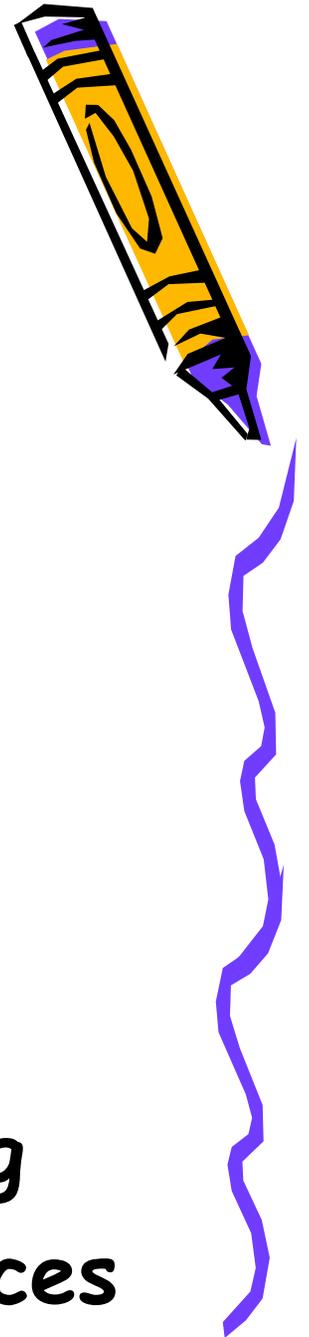
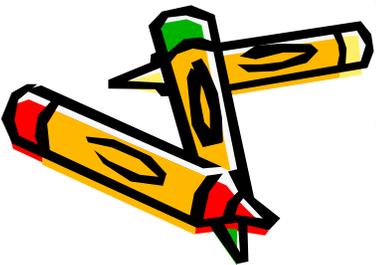
Current National Trends

- Federal reviews drive changes
- Media attention drives changes
- Fatalities drive changes
- Money drives changes- recession
- Executive leadership drives changes
- Funding shifts drive changes
- Child welfare philosophy drives changes
- Introducing technology drives changes



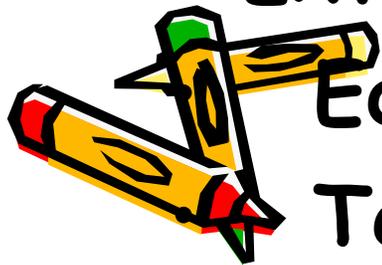
Some Trends

- Evidenced based practices
- Child well-being
- Wrap around services
- Capitated rates
- Title IV-E Waivers
- Intensive family services
- Finding fathers
- Family group decision making
- Adverse Childhood Experiences



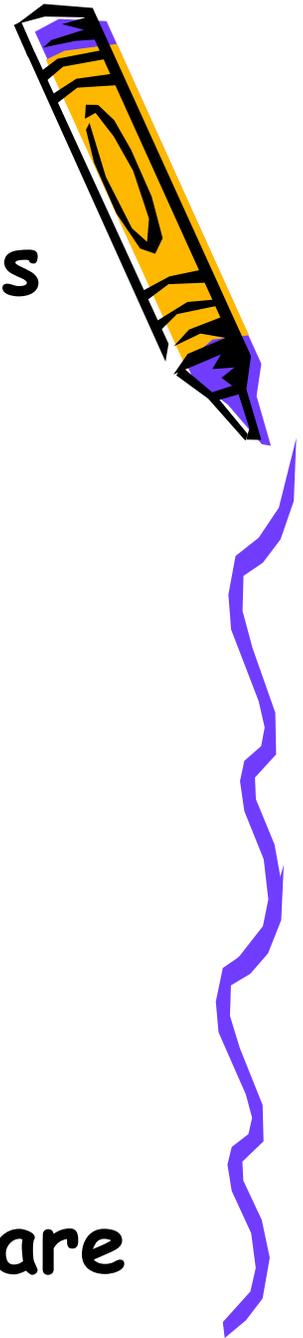
More Trends

- CANS and other assessment tools
- Federal finance reform
- Motivational interview training
- Behavioral risk surveys
- Results based accountability
- Child development issues
- Aging out
- Extended Title IV-E- to 21?



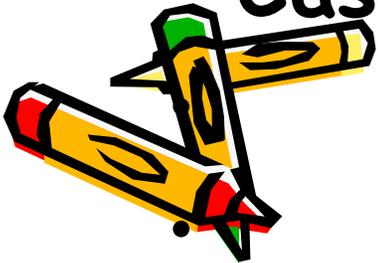
Educational success in foster care

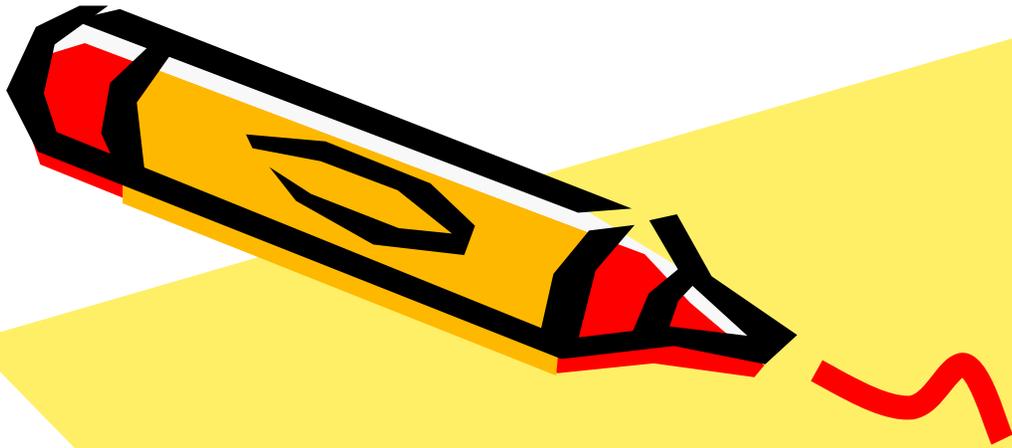
Technology issues- mobile access



Even More Trends

- Interoperability
- De-linking
- Predictive analytics
- Fatality review committees
- Screen out issues
- Permanency committees
- Alternative/differential response
- Case worker visits to homes/families
- Restructure of CFSR process
- Supervisor training/support





LEADERSHIP!!

