

Exceptional Placements

Ross Hunter, Secretary

Department of Children, Youth and Families

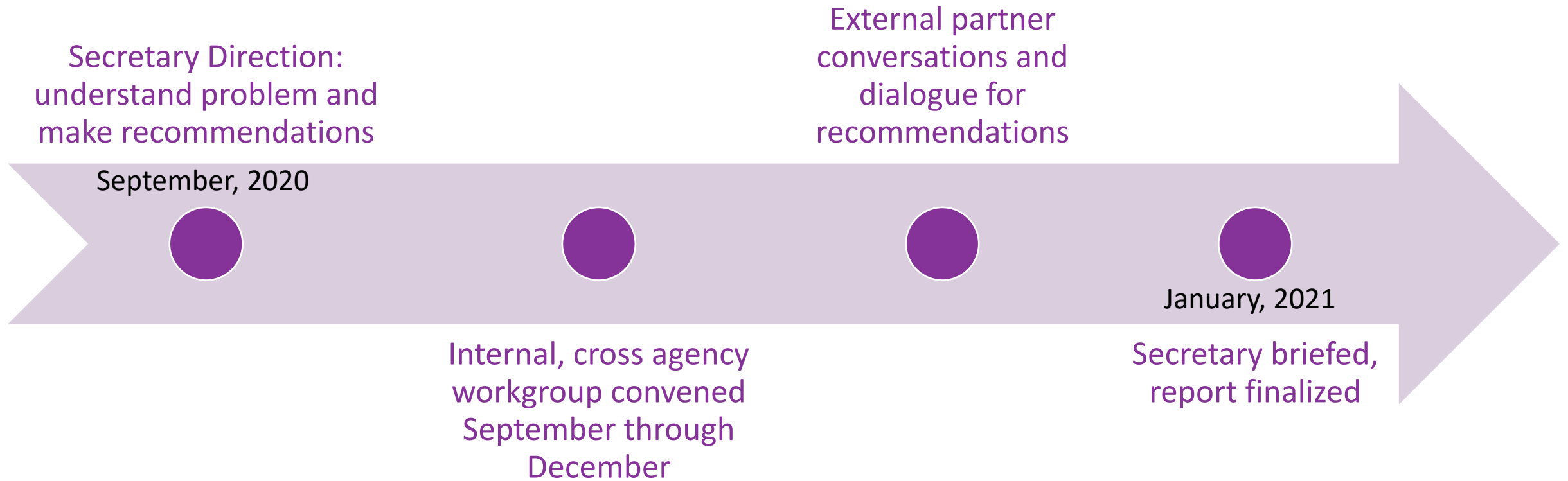
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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Urgency of the Problem



What we know

Category	Percent of population	Number of children	Number of hotel stay events
Low users (1 night)	44.8%	334	334
Moderate users (2-3 nights)	20.5%	153	363
High users (4 or more nights)	34.6%	258	3451
		745	4148

Individual Risk Factors

- Past runaway
- Suicide or self-harm
- Disability related medical coverage
- Mental health diagnosis
- Co-occurring substance use and mental health
- Justice involvement



Placement Prior to Hotel Stay Event

Prior placement history	Low Hotel users	Moderate Hotel users	High Hotel users
BRS	31 (9.3%)	19 (12.4%)	48 (18.6%)
CRC	53 (15.9%)	41 (26.8%)	58 (22.5%)
Detention	33 (9.9%)	14 (9.2%)	29 (11.2%)
Hope bed	24 (7.2%)	15 (9.8%)	30 (11.6%)
Hospital	32 (9.6%)	16 (10.5%)	38 (14.7%)
Run	54 (16.2%)	23 (15%)	49 (19%)



Work Underway

- Increasing placement options
 - Since July 1, 2020, DCYF has increased potential BRS beds by 27
 - Additional agencies working on approval to provide BRS level of services
 - Adding 20 BRS-Intensive Mental Health (BRS+) beds by March 1, 2021
- Placement resources redesign for dependent children to create a complete continuum
- Some youth have needs that cannot be met by in-state providers and are then referred to and accepted by an out-of-state provider.
 - Currently 14 youth placed out of state on child specific contracts (CSC). Down from 84 in August 2018.
 - DCYF anticipates continued need for out-of-state programs when youth have specialized treatment needs not available in WA



Recommendations

System

- More options for court-involved youth and families upon release
- More DDA beds for high-end needs. Entitlement?
- Require DDA to participate in case planning
- More CLIP beds

Practice

- Establish regional child welfare mental health liaisons
- Expand definition of relative to include 'suitable-other' to expand placement options
- Hold shared planning meetings earlier, invite experts, and implement consistent staffing



Thank you!

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