

READY... SET... GO!!

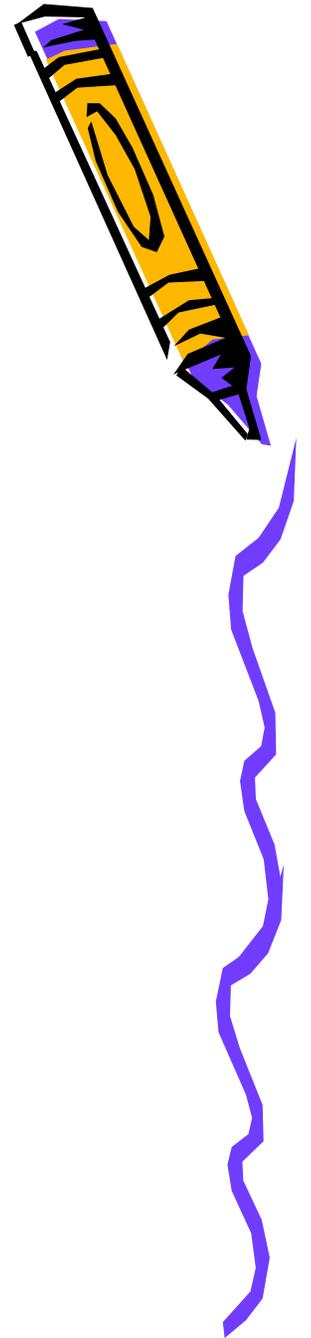
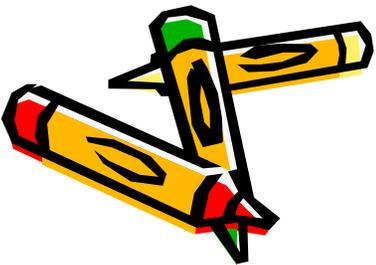
**The Bench, Bar and Child
Welfare Agencies Working
Together To Improve Outcomes**

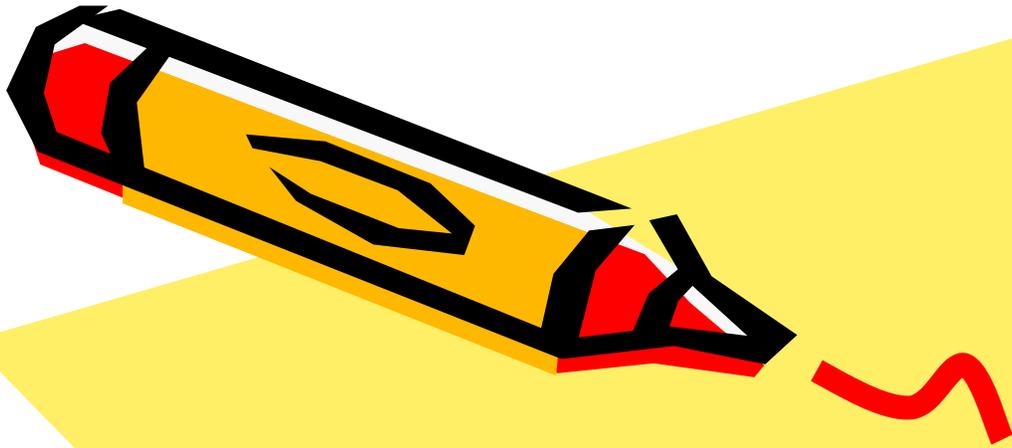
**Enhancing Court Practices in Child Welfare
Proceedings**

Albany, New York: March 10, 2010

Goals

- The history- why
- Changing landscape
- Initiatives
- Leadership/Partnership
- Lessons I have learned
- The future





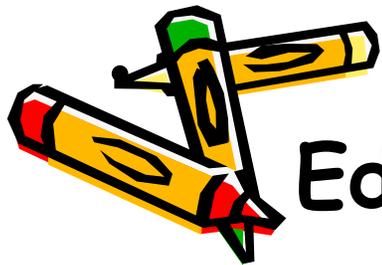
THESE ARE TOUGH
ECONOMIC TIMES
WHAT NOW??



10 States & Their Deficits



- California- Massive cuts in education, layoffs etc- \$20Billion deficit in 2011
- Oklahoma- Ok but energy price drop- 26% revenue drop
- Arizona- Hit by housing and tourism drop- 30% budget gap
- Illinois- pension payment delays and others- looming \$11 Billion gap

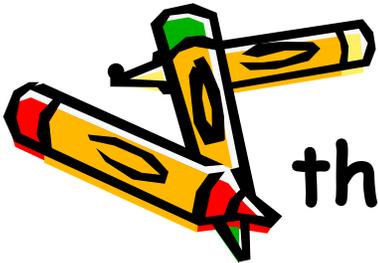


Hawaii- 3 day a month furloughs, Ed cuts, income tax- 21% budget gap

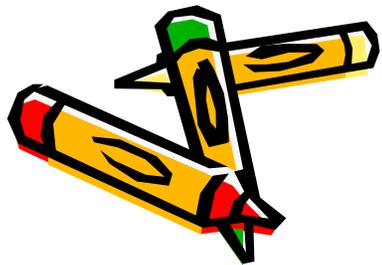


10 States & their Deficits

- New Jersey- 3rd highest deficit- already cut \$800 million and now more
- New York- 3 Billion deficit and double next year- delay payments to systems
- Nevada- Housing crisis hit hard- 33% budget deficit
- Colorado-efforts to balance budget run into law requiring education increases
- Michigan- unemployment worst in the nation- revenue down lots

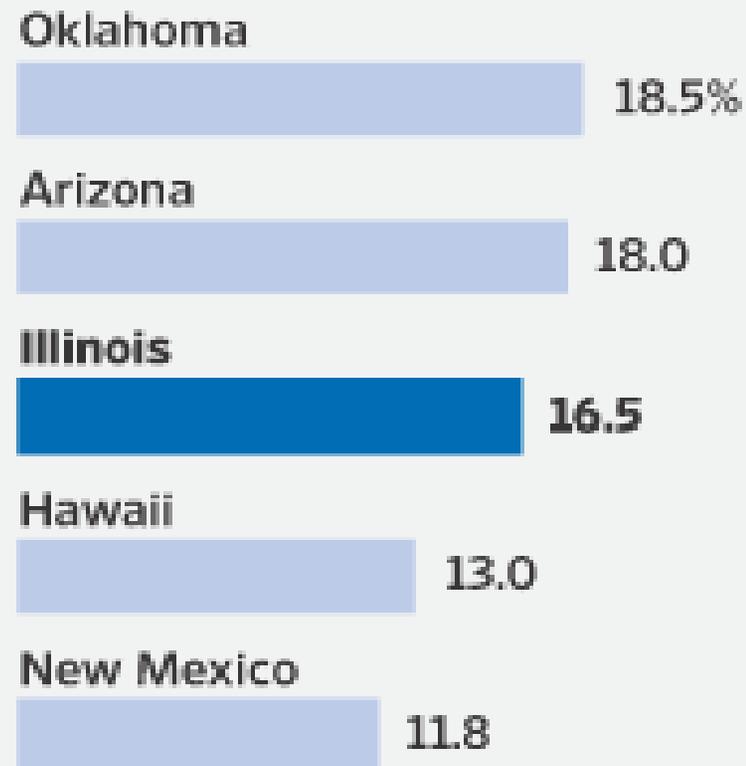


Budget Gaps According to the Wall Street Journal, January 4, 2010



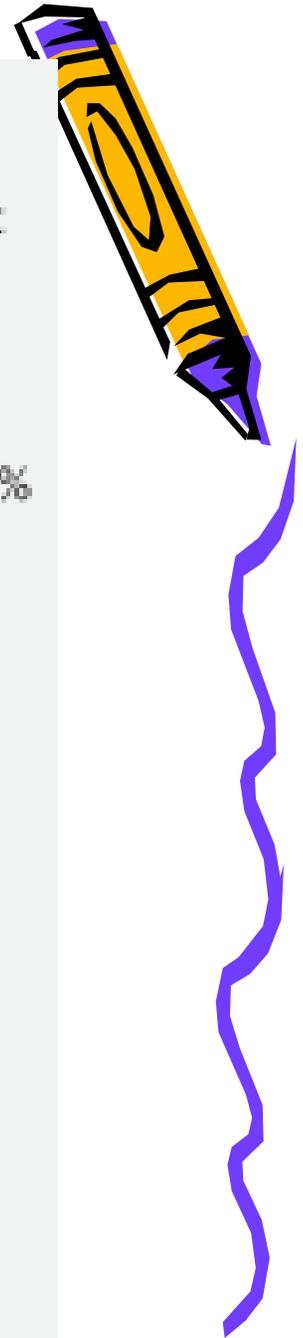
Coming Up Short

States with the largest budget gaps as a percentage of FY2010 general-fund budgets

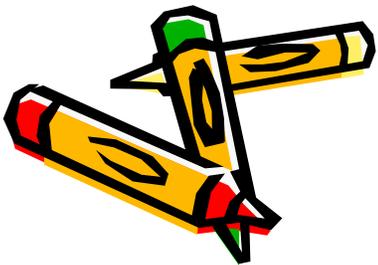
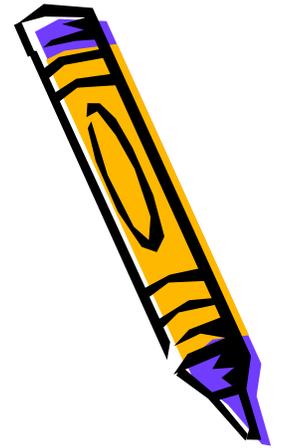


Note: Fiscal year ends June 30 for most states.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

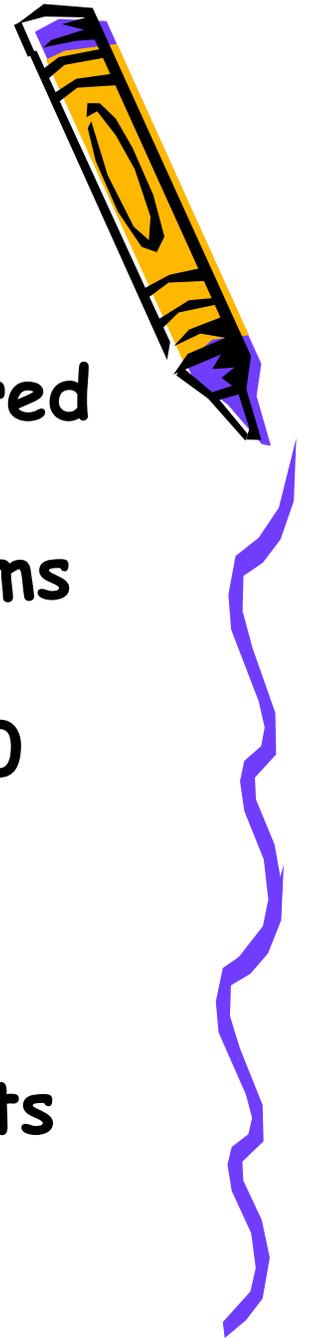
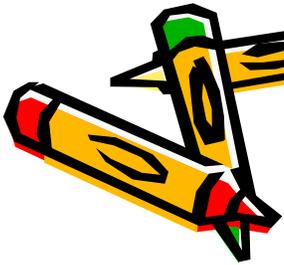


HISTORY OF CHILD WELFARE: UNDERSTANDING THE RESPONSES



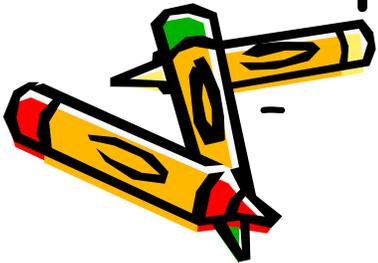
History

- 1st reported case of abuse in US
- 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
- 1886- Charles Birtwell of Boston Champions return home
- 1909- White House Conference adopts Birtwell and temp foster care payments

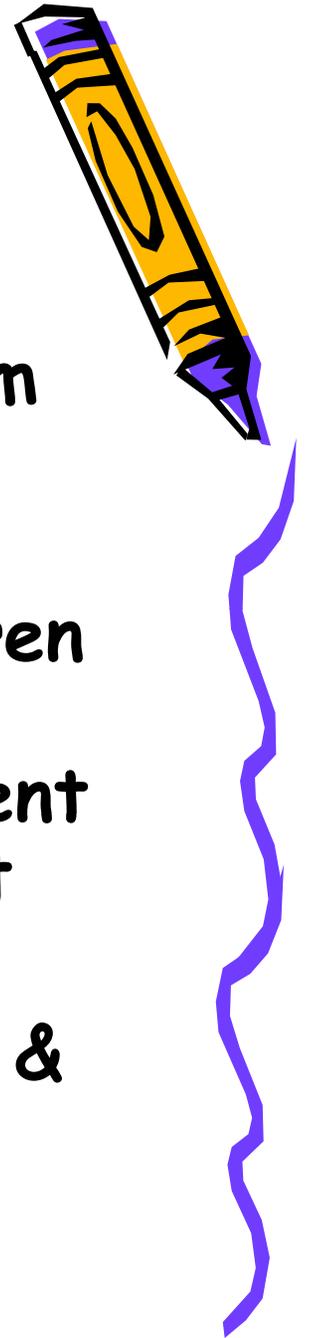


History p 2

- 1923- 34 states had Children's Aid Societies- kids exploited- criticism of placing kids out and multiple placements
- 1959- Maas and Engler study- Children in Need of Parents- kids spent 3 years in care- neglect, abandonment and poverty reasons for placement
- The 60's- Fleming Rule- can't refuse AFDC for bad homes- keep AFDC & reasonable efforts to improve

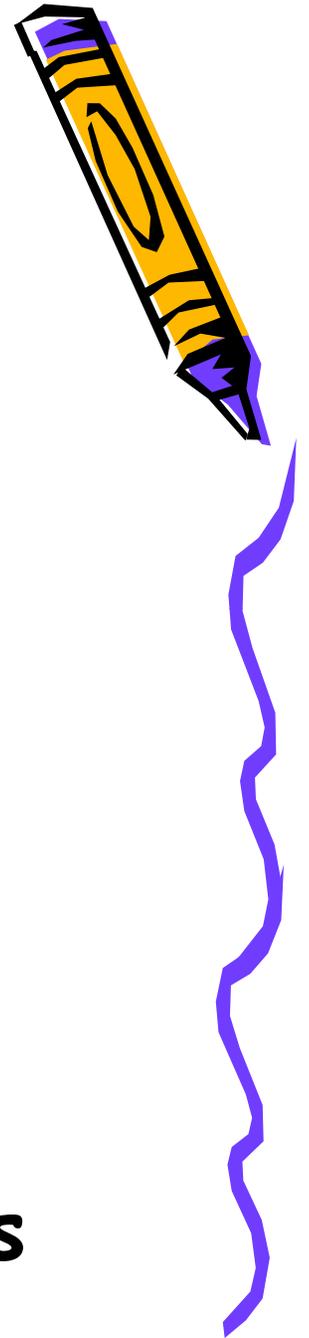
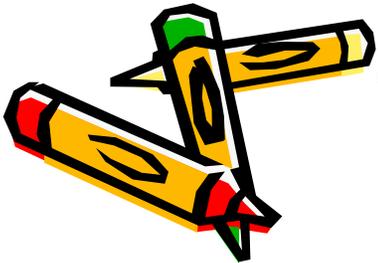


**AND SO THE FEDS
STEPPED IN!!**



History of Fed Actions

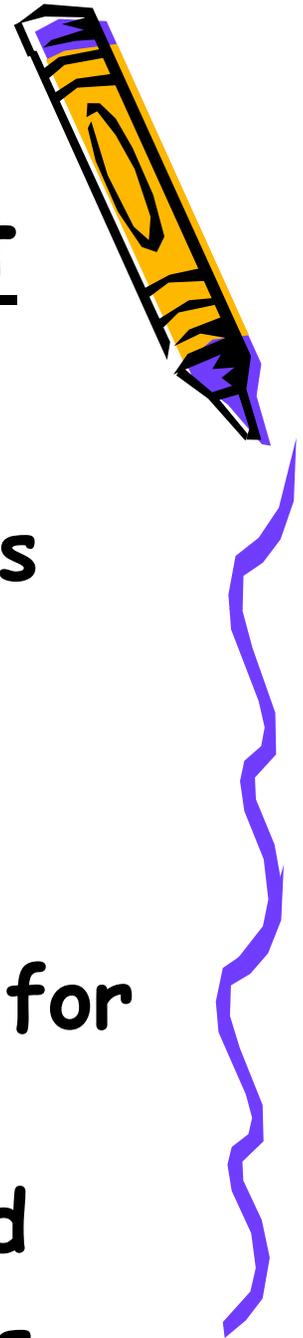
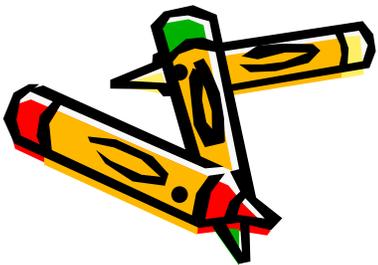
- 1974- CAPTA
- 1978- ICWA
- 1980- AACWA
- 1993- Court Improvement
- 1994- MEPA
- 1997- ASFA
- 1999- Chaffee
- 2000- SANCA
- 2008- Fostering Connections



1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

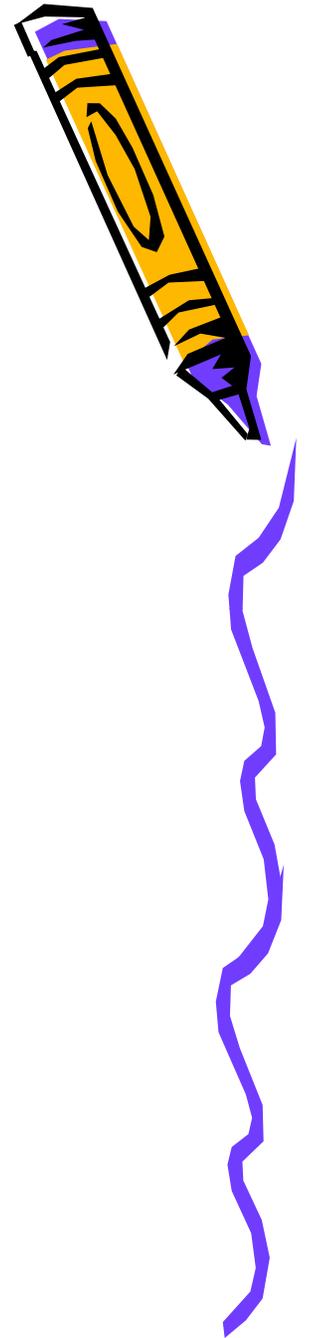
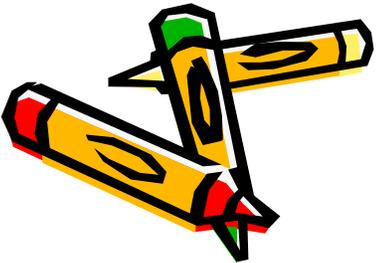
- Child abuse prevention- Children's trust funds
- National Standards for child protection
- Coordinated community response for investigation and prosecution

GAL/CASA for every child
Research and other grants



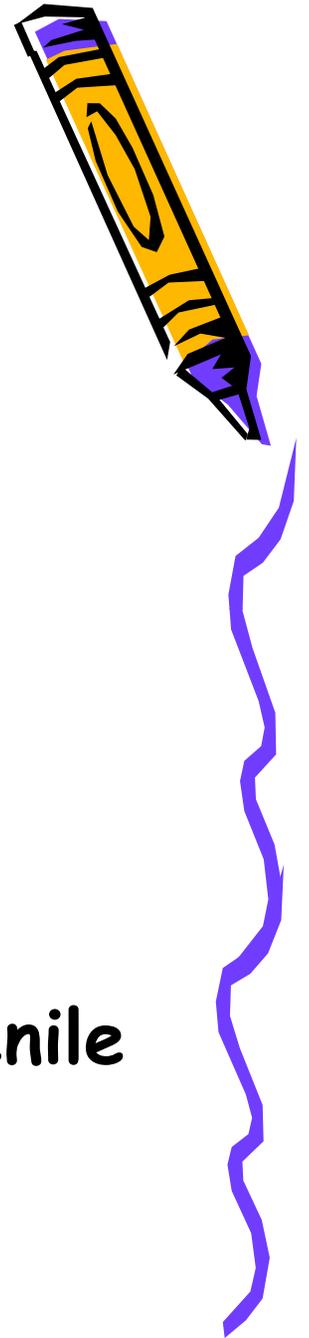
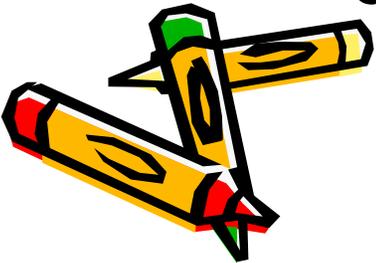
1978 Indian Child Welfare Act

- Set out for children of native American heritage
- Process to address problems
- Different standards
- Choice of tribe



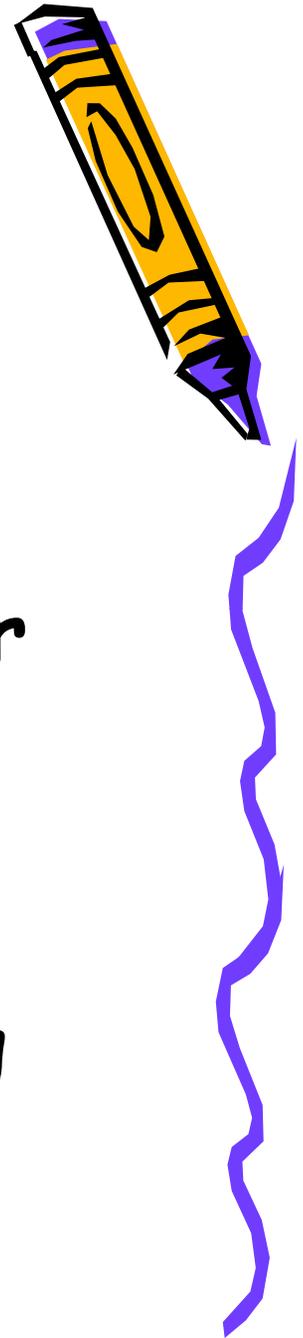
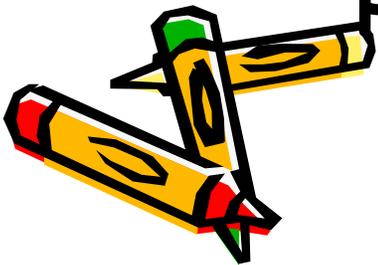
Public Law 96-272

- The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980
- To get Federal funds, States must:
 1. implement services,
 2. provide protections for families,
 3. develop mandates and timetables
- Policy- END FOSTER CARE DRIFT
- TRUST IN STATE JUDICIARY- juvenile and family courts

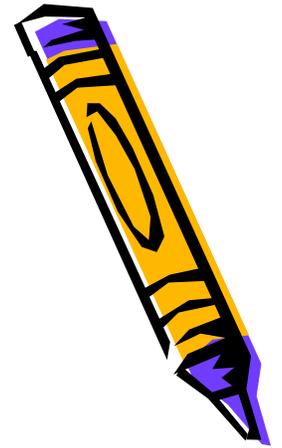


Federal Requirements of 96-272

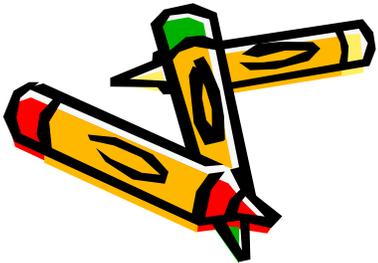
- Evaluation of reasonableness of services to preserve families
- Periodic review hearings in foster care cases
- Adherence to deadlines for permanency planning decision
- Procedural safeguards concerning placement and visitation



1993 Court Improvement Act

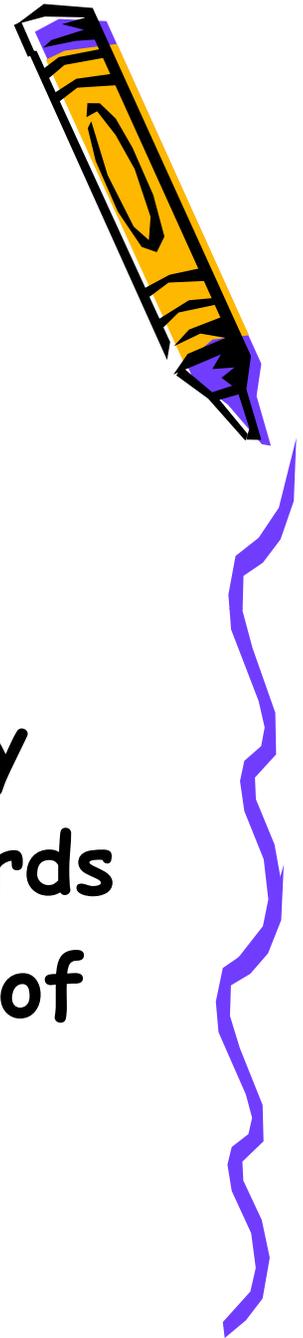
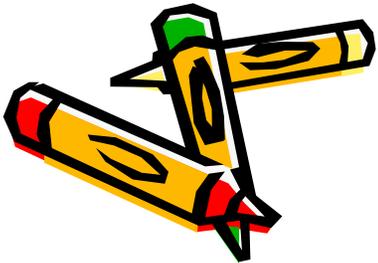


- Review Court data to improve practice
- \$\$ to Supreme Courts for surveys
- Revelations from those reports-
opinions of stakeholders, time
frames, permanency issues, etc
- Flexible funding for ID'd programs



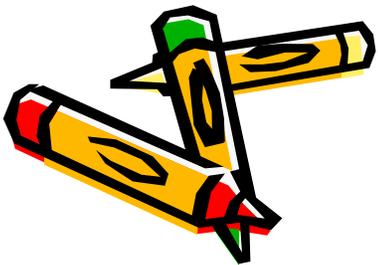
1994 Multi-Ethnic Placement Act

- MEPA
- Response to some state policy initiatives delaying permanency
- Some limits on placement standards
- Has severe penalties- total loss of IV-E funding



1995 Block Grants

- Just what it says
- Feds provide \$\$ for states to use as best they saw it with limited regulations- **WAIVERS**

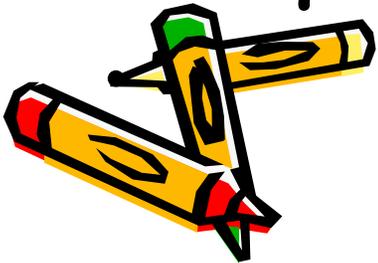


Adoption & Safe Families Act

Nov 19, 1997



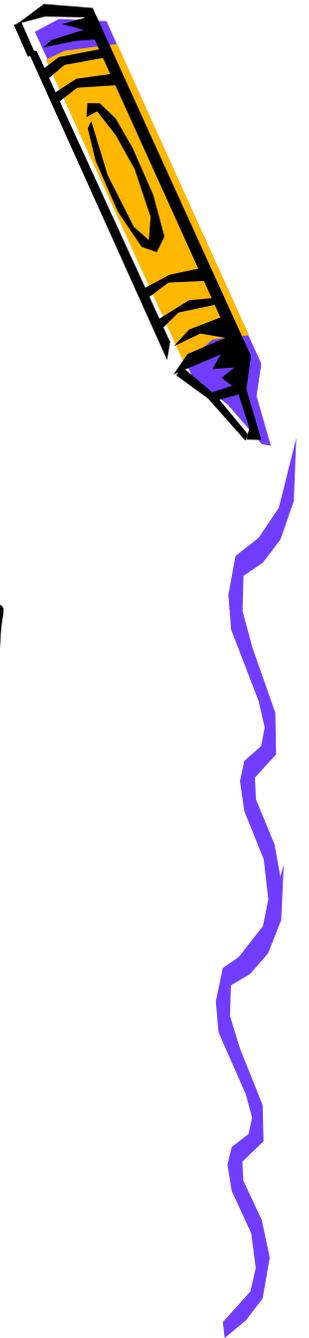
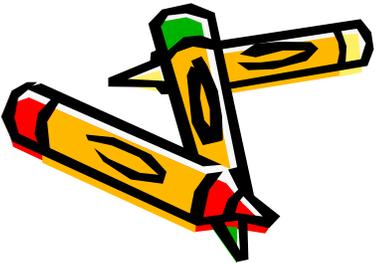
- Promotes health & safety of the child
- Continues Family Preservation Program
- Promote **TIMELY** decision making
- Clarifies "reasonable efforts"
- Foster care is **TEMPORARY- AGAIN!!**
- Permanency planning begins immediately
- Requires TPR in certain situations



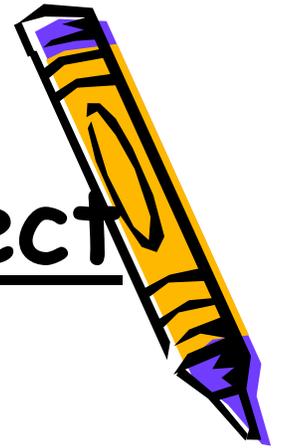
Need for innovation- where do new ideas come from, typically?

1999 Foster Care Independence Act

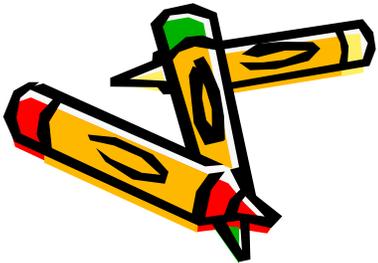
- Provides resources for kids aging out of the system



2001
Strengthening Abuse & Neglect
Courts Act



- SANCA
- Helping Courts fulfill the mission of ASFA
- Brings \$\$ to the Courts
- But not enough



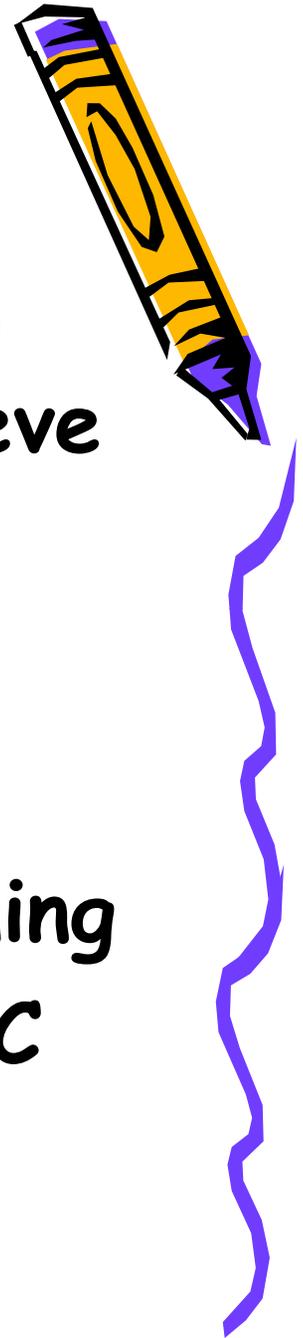
2008

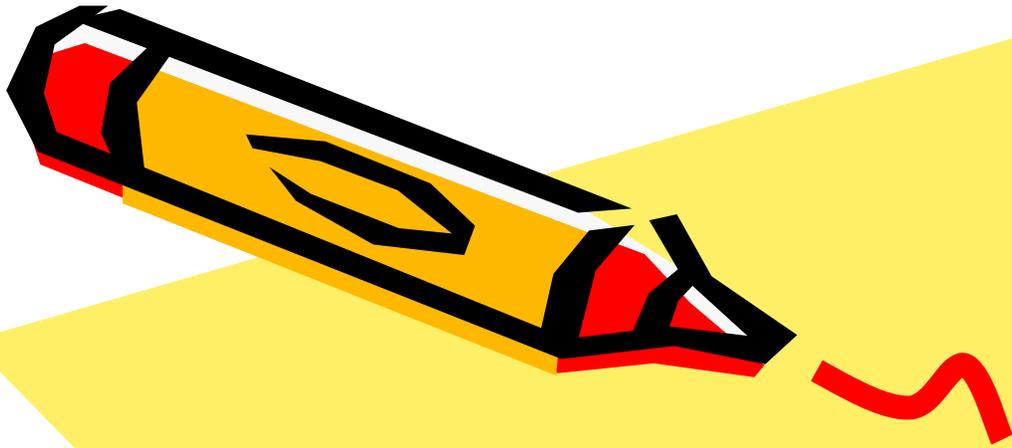
Fostering Connections Act

- Education stability- attend/achieve
- Health care- Medicaid- EPSDT
- Can extend foster care to 21
- Can us subsidized guardianship
- Kinship care- ID relatives- training
- Over time- delinks to 1996 AFDC

Training support

Tribal issues





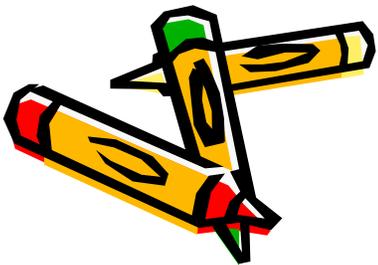
Recent Changes Effecting Child Welfare



CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- **Tighter Time-Lines and Higher Level of Accountability to:**

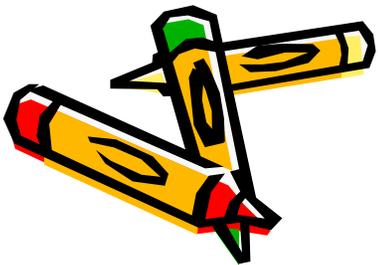
- Ensure the safety and well-being of children- health & safety
- Assess the willingness and ability of parents/caregivers
- Mobilize services for the child and family
- Expedite the achievement of the permanency goal within unless there are "Compelling Reasons"



CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

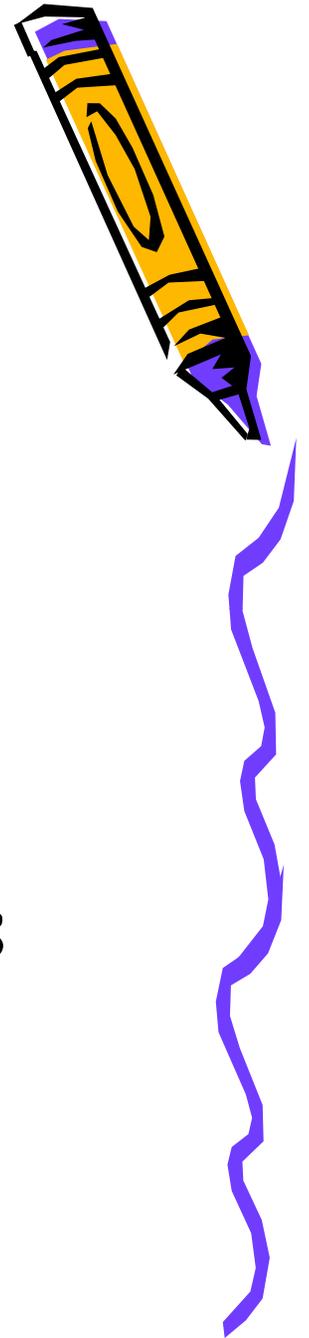
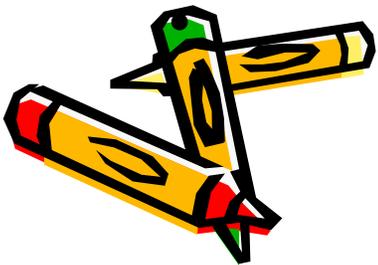


- Greater Emphasis on Collaboration and Partnerships
 - **Community-Neighborhood Responses, Systems and Services** - Keeping the services as close and as accessible to the child and family as possible
 - **Partnerships** - Emphasize Partnerships within the system families, the family's natural supports, service providers, **court participants** and foster families

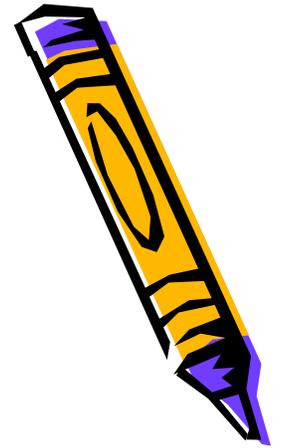


CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

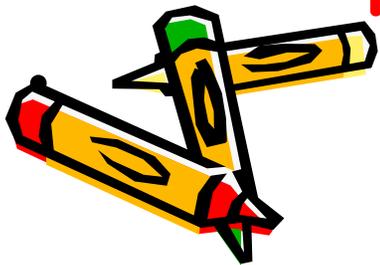
- **Accountability of all:**
 - parents providers
 - system funders
- **Three targets:**
 - Youth Partnerships Tribes
- **Measurements:**
 - Composites, not measures



CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

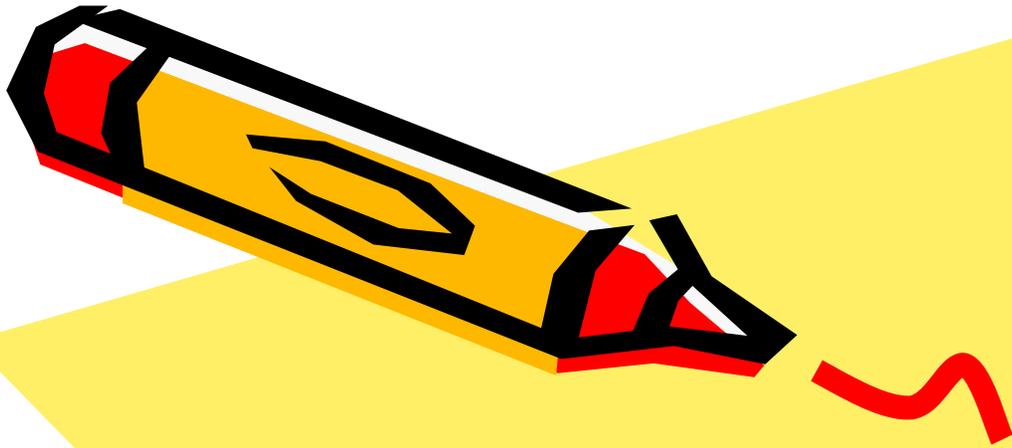


- **Outcomes:**
- Measurable and real- agency, Court and programs
- **Examples-** ACE, CFTM, case manger visits, education, health issues, grandparents, aging out, time in care
- **Philosophy and Practice:**

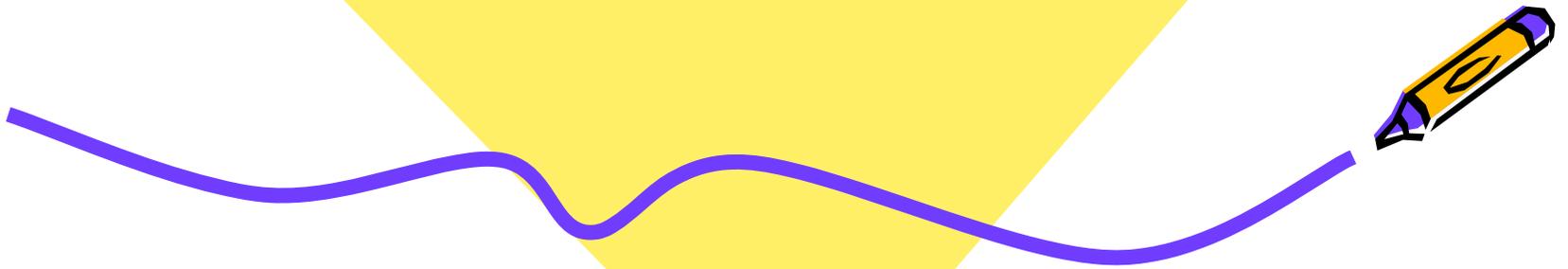


Will change with outcomes and accountability- the CFSR



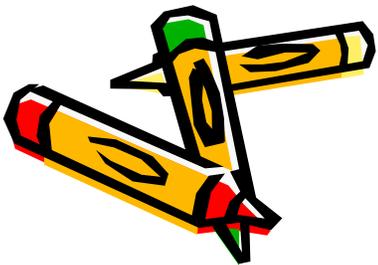
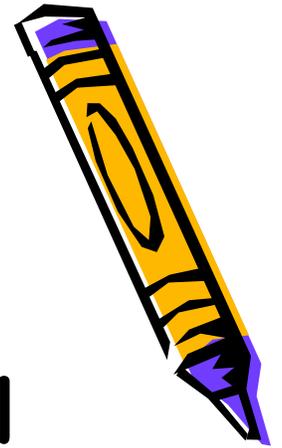


Initiatives



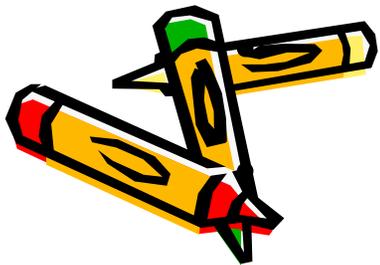
Community

- Involve all stakeholders
- Expand the network of informal and formal supports
- Establish prevention, reunification and permanency options
- Ensure that the community has financial resources to “do the job”
- Support the efforts of those who take care of those least capable of taking care of themselves



The Children

- Keep home with services
- Find relatives
- Place with relatives
- Provide personal items for security
- Work on school consistency
- Provide neighborhood placement
- Visitation



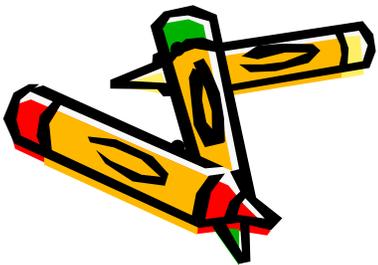
Sibling placement or visits
Inform of status regularly



Help for Individual Children and Families



- Advise families and others in the case and community about rules & timetables
- Make sure families are engaged in assessing, planning and decision making
- Develop case plan that really responds to the child and family needs- services, accessible, available, timely & culturally competent



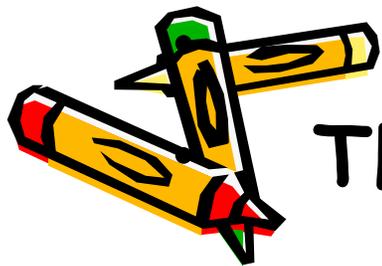
Explore relative placements early

Help and force families to watch the clock- use this therapeutically

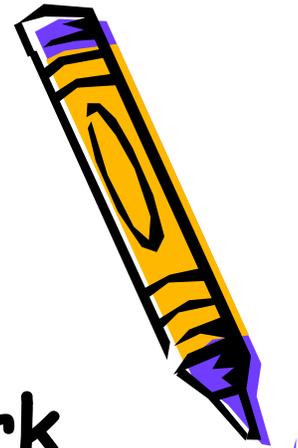


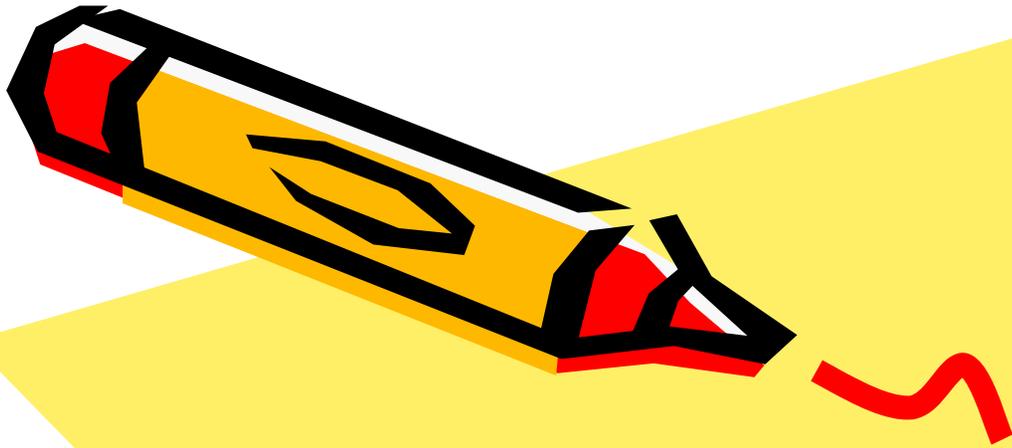
Heightened Need for Partnerships

- Children harmed when fail to work together
- Families use to their advantage
- Families give up with the conflict
- Duplication or more of services
- Contradictory messages from services
- Song is better when sung together

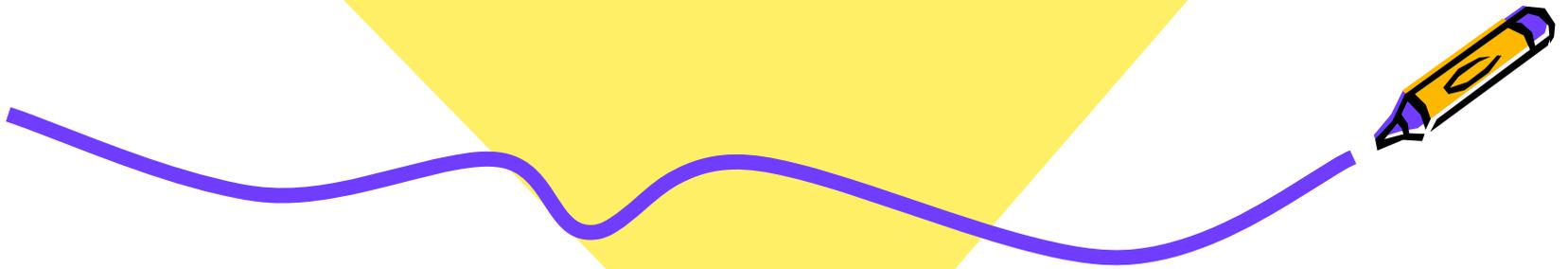


Communication solves lots of ills
THERE IS NTO ENOUGH MONEY!!



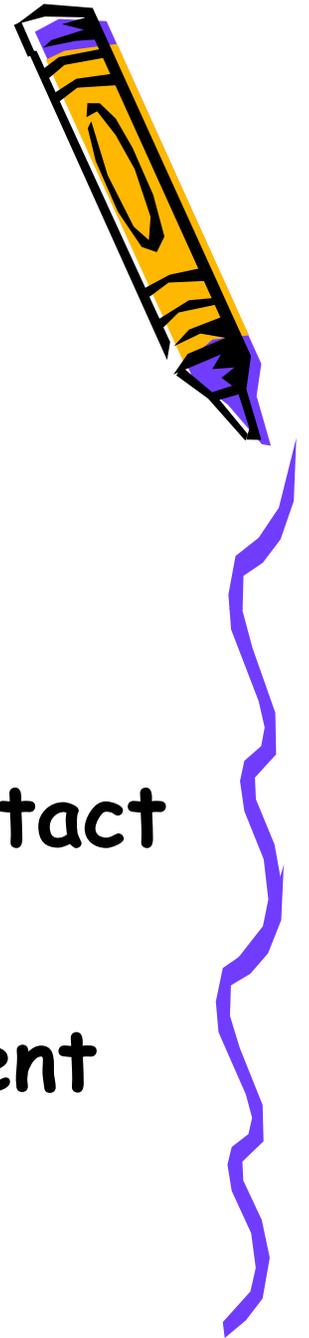
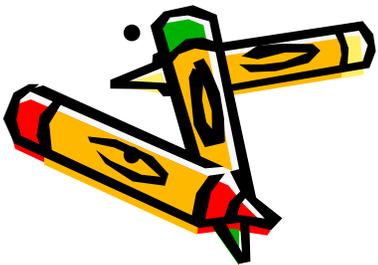


Do Things Early



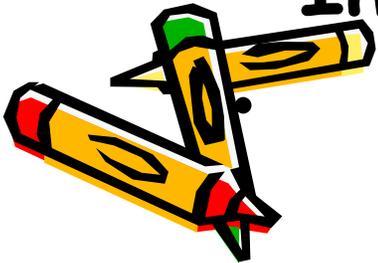
30 Minutes

- 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

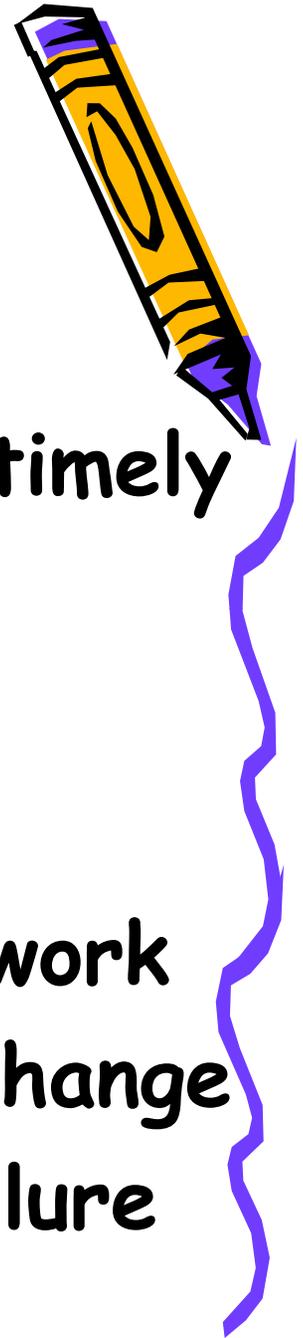
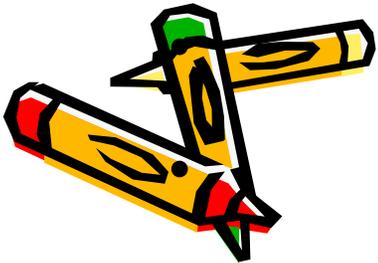
- The decision on placement of child
- Visits
- Assessment of risk/safety
- Services to address risk/safety
- Timeliness of service start
- Location of service delivery
- Assistance for proper referrals
- Involvement of support network
- Follow up of assigned staff



30 Days

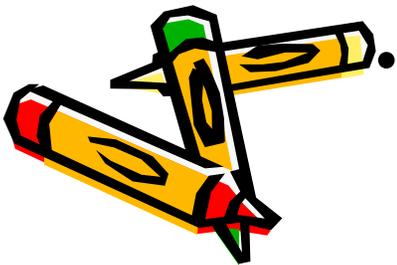
- Is there participation
- Are the right services available timely
- Additional resources
- Reassessment of risk/safety
- Reassessment of service needs
- Continue to increase support network
- Is the service working- if not, change

Consequences for service failure
Reward for service success



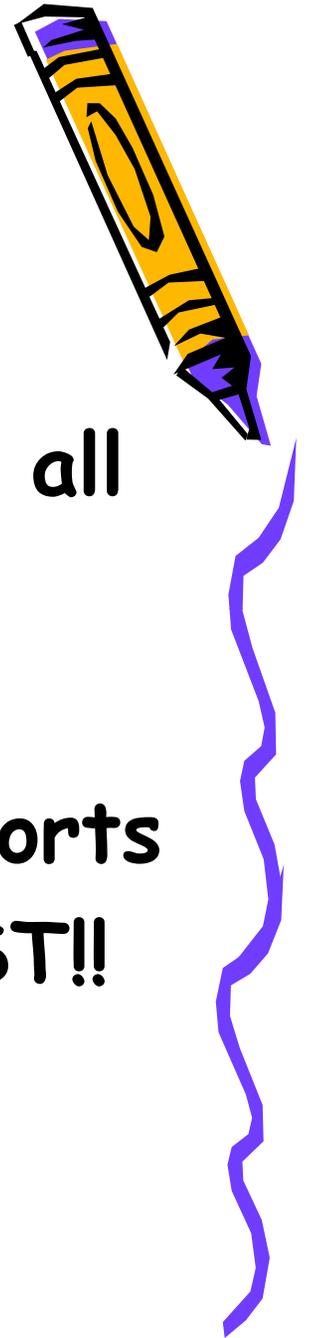
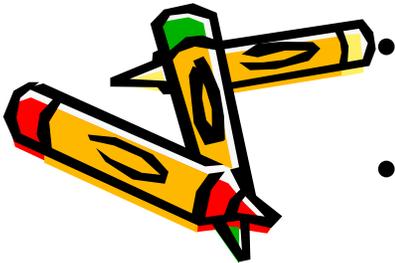
Early

- Find absent parent/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 participation

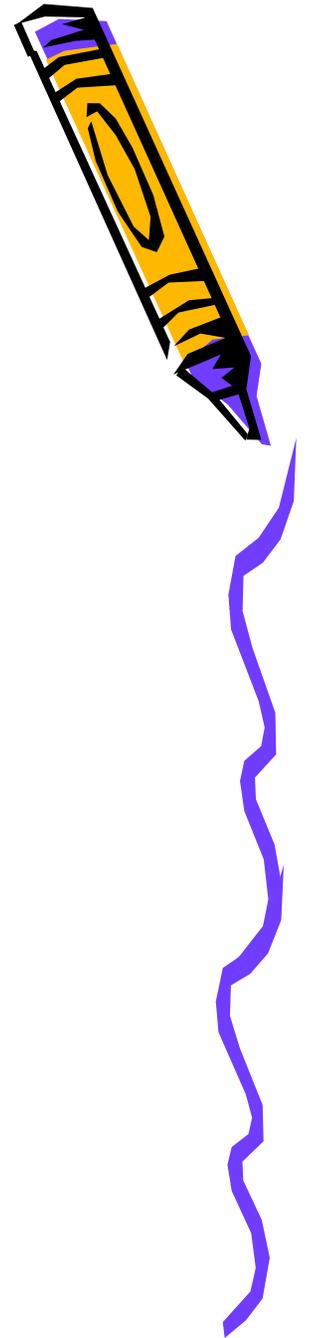
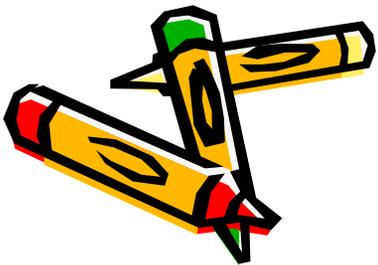


Better

- Agency must be excellent
- Case loads manageable- for all
- 30-30-30
- Frequent contact
- Engage informal family supports
- Time- time- time AND FAST!!
- Together- together
- MEDIA
- DATA and outcomes!!

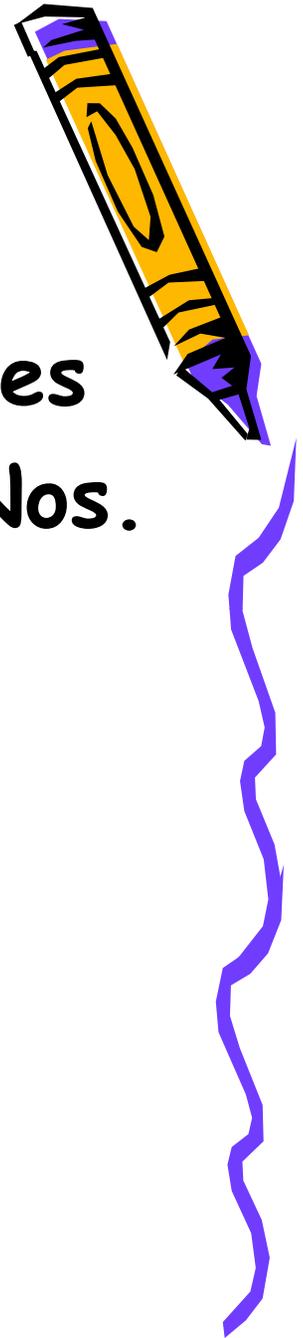
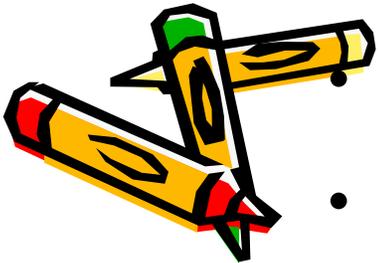


WHO
LIKES
CHANGE
ANYWAY??



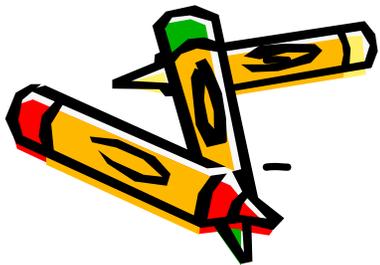
Things to Look At:

- Filing per statute and timelines
- Family structure and abuse Nos.
- Kids in care too long
- Cases open too long
- Educational advocates
- Health care initiatives
- Kids in home- Parents out
- Kids aging out
- DATA, DATA, DATA,

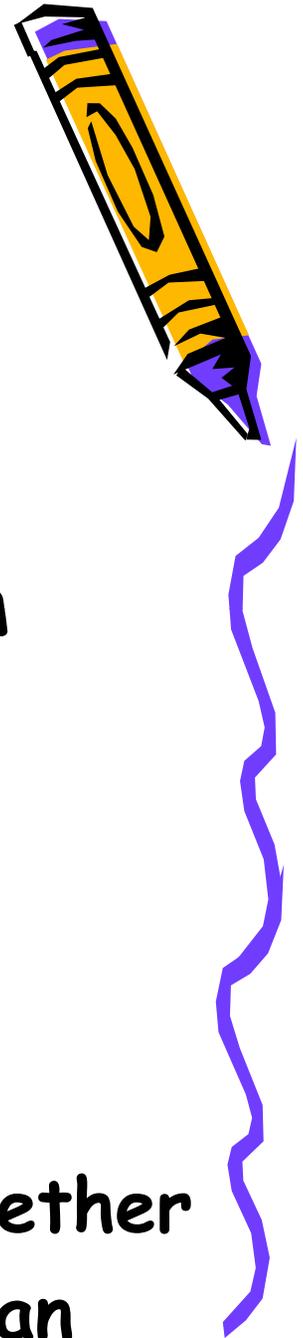


SUGGESTIONS

- Training
- Joint training
- Know the service delivery system
- Teach
- Work on legislation together
- Work with media together
- Train to community involvement



Work on budgetary concerns together
Defend each other where you can

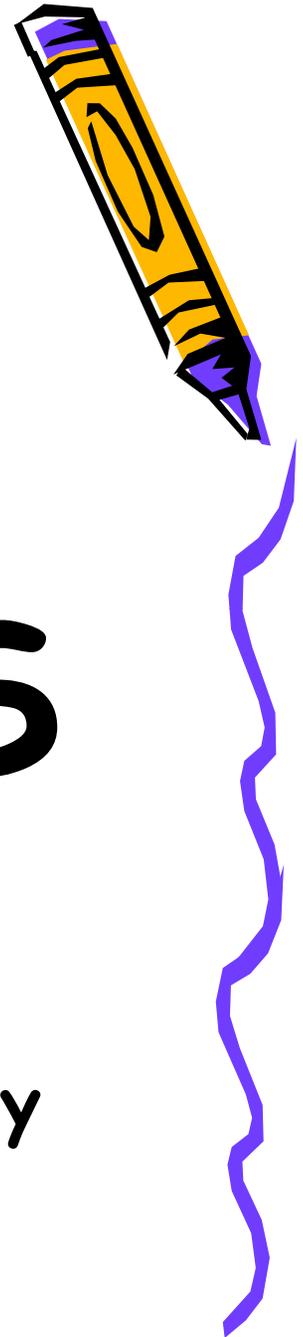
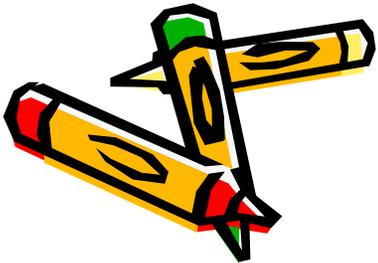


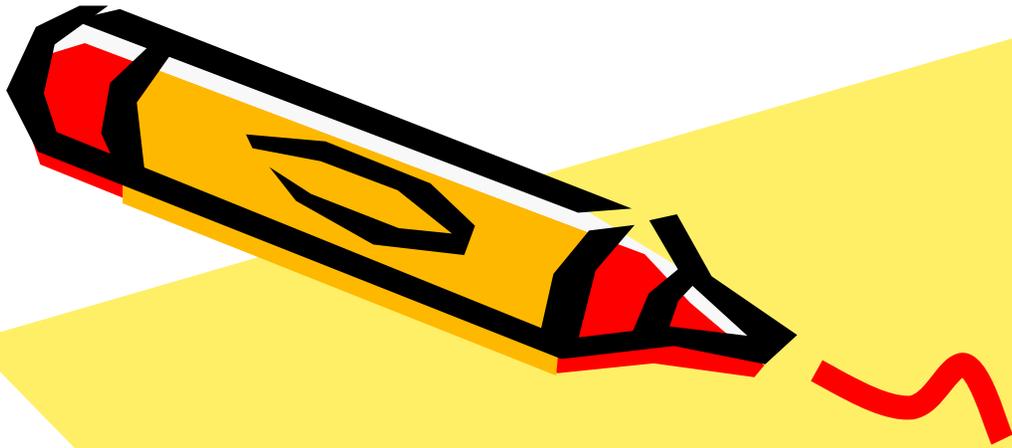
SUGGESTIONS

- Assist with Leadership turnover
- Need for uniform practice- each

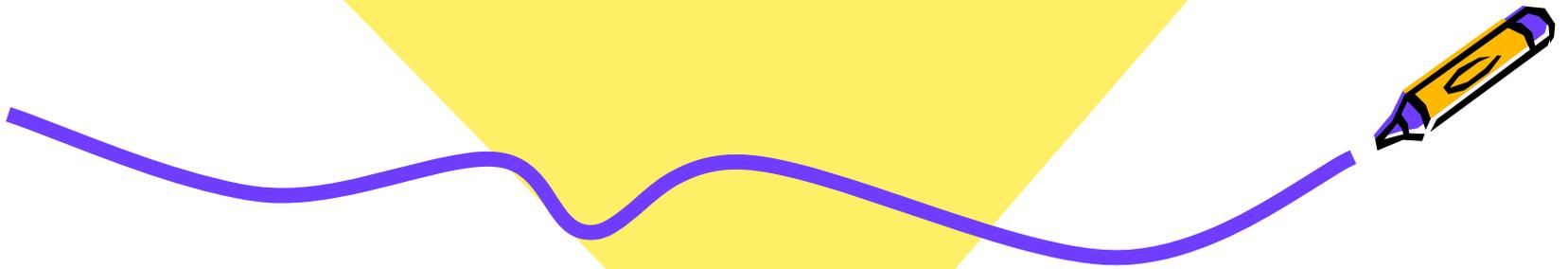
• STANDARDS

- ON:
- Case load Work load Reports
- Judges, Courts, Case workers agency attorneys, GAL/CASA, parents attorneys, service providers, volunteers, foster/relative care issues

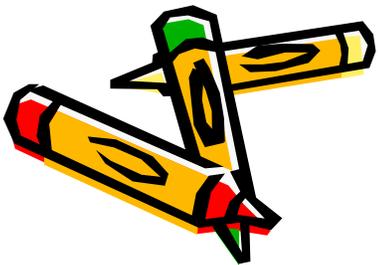
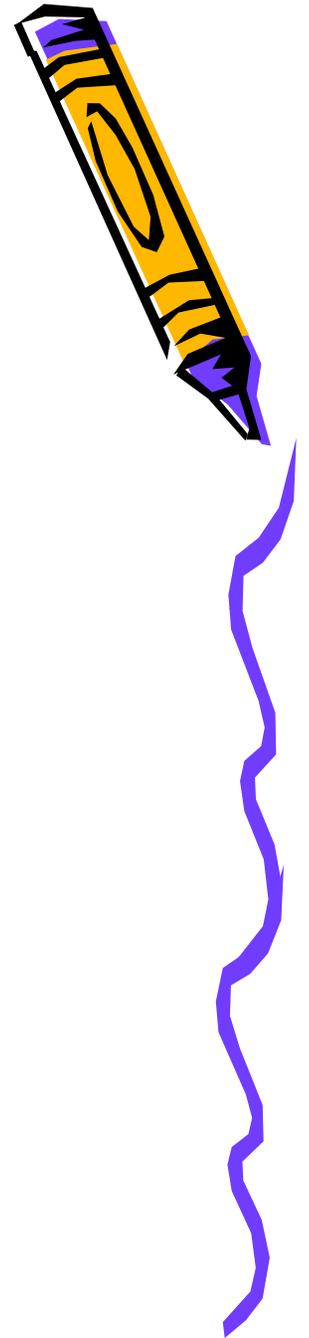




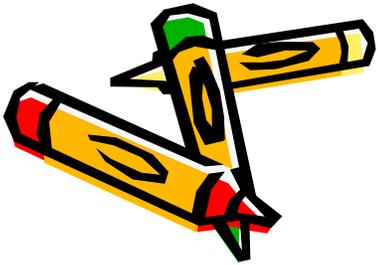
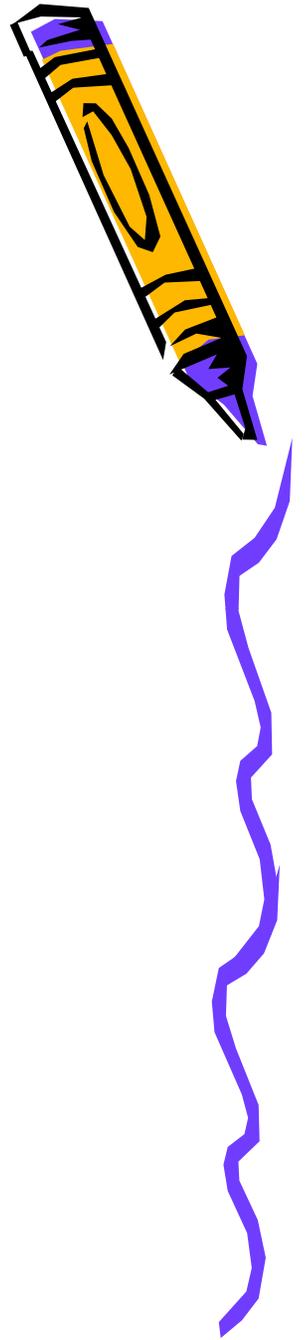
Things I Have
Learned



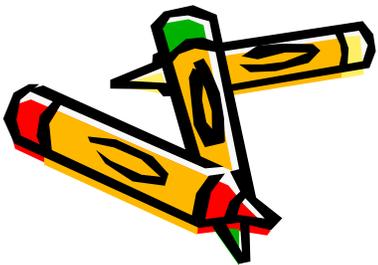
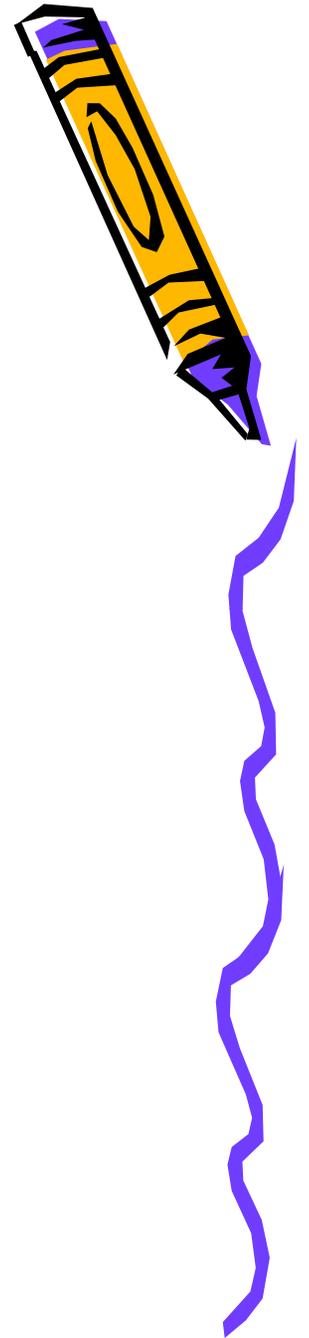
If the agency
isn't working well,
the system won't
be either



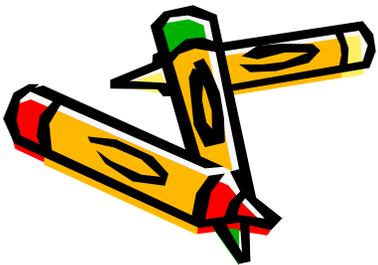
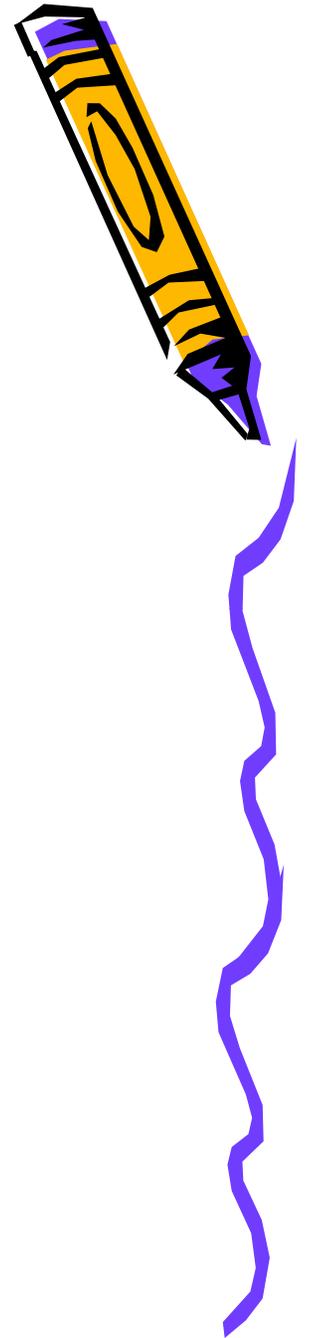
**Caseloads are
important!!**



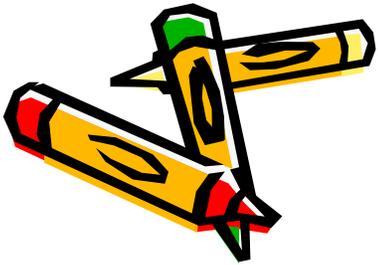
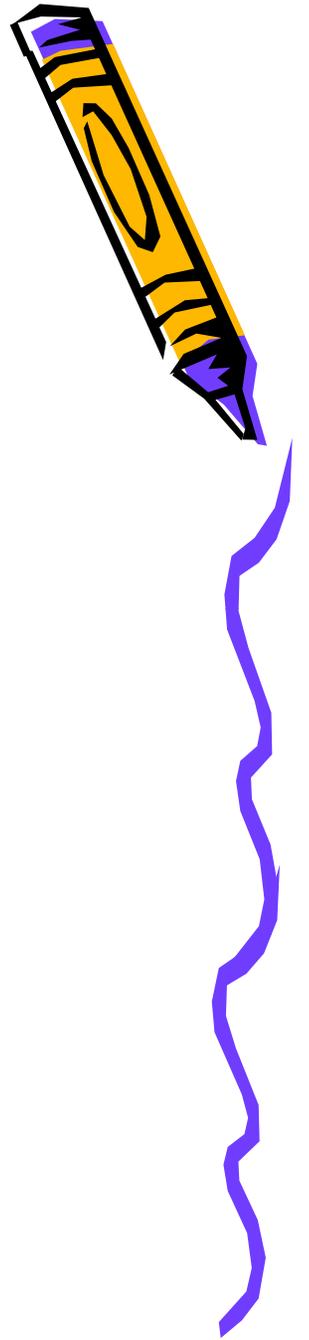
The whole system
tends to keep
doing things the
same way



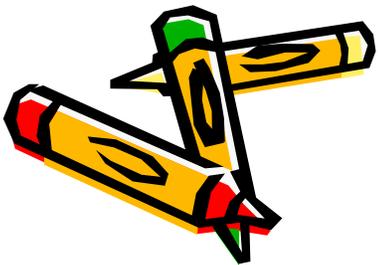
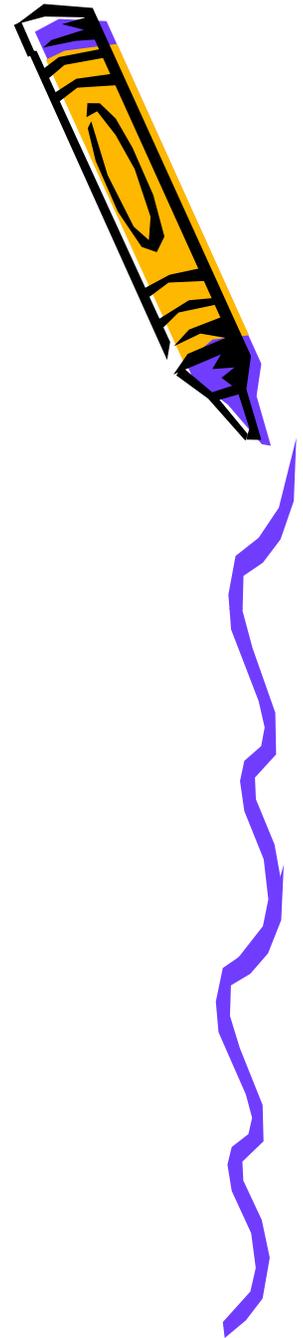
Change comes
from a few and
threatens many



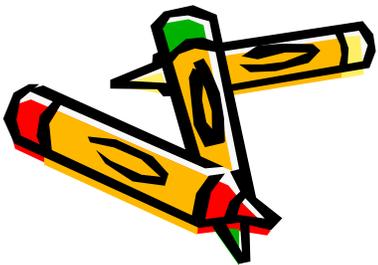
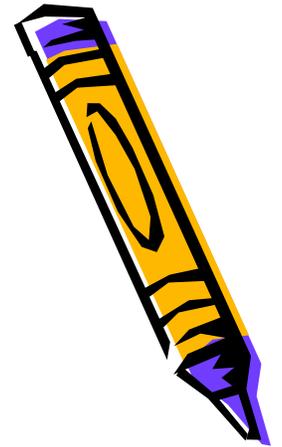
A Judge can fix
a little but not
the whole thing

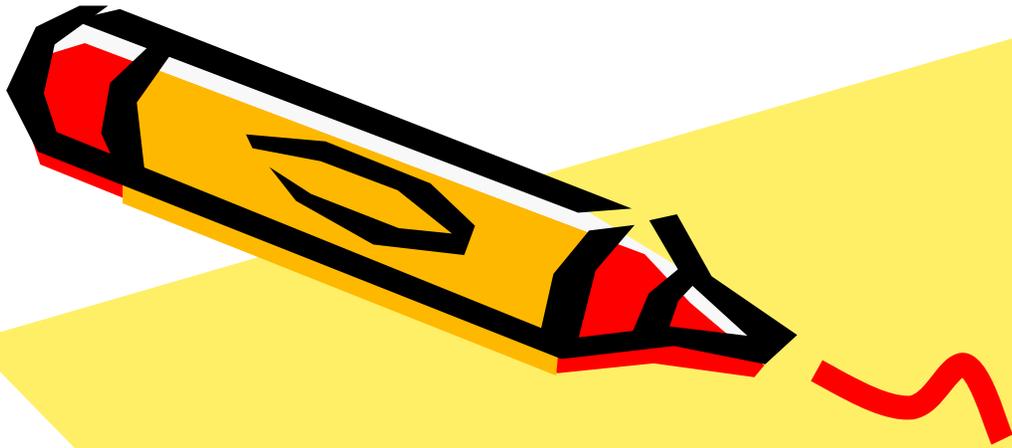


The only way to
fix it is to....

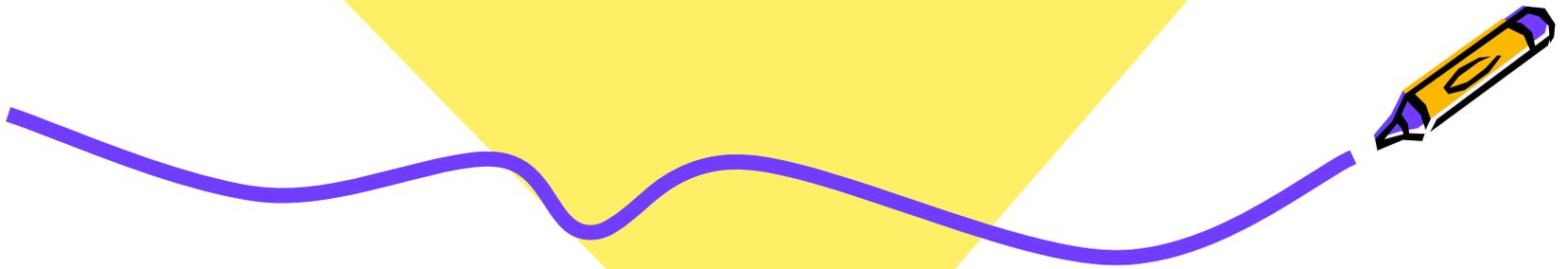


**Money is
important**

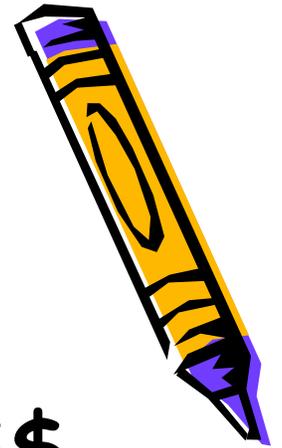




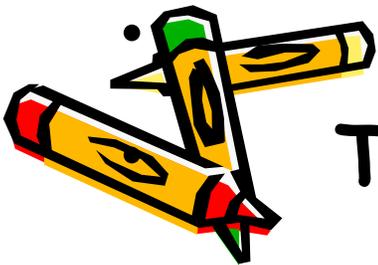
Things To Watch



We All Have to Watch



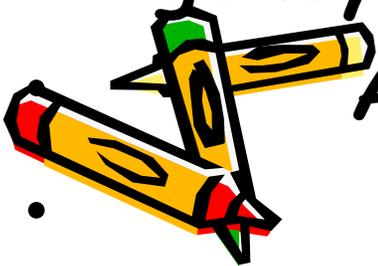
- This is our job and passion
- We cannot ignore the reality of \$\$
- \$\$ not the most important thing, but-
- Funding is changed for years
- Programs & expectations must also
- Demands of scarce resources
- Communicate for the system- use Media
- What happens to the service folks
The local, state and national scenes



Things to Watch- 2

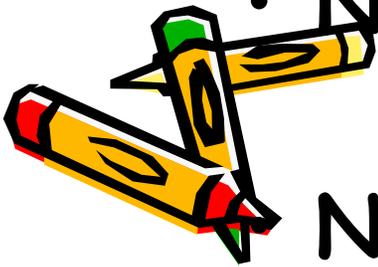
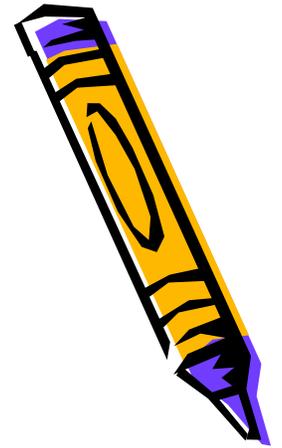


- Watch the new- Congress and new bills
- Enforce the old?- NYTD, Fostering Connections, ASFA/CFSR/PIP, etc
- Governor's & leg's ratings- Nov. election
- Small agency survival
- Service agency consolidation
- Contributions- United Ways, Foundations
- Agency turnover- at the top
- Agency turnover at case worker
- Data- data- data!!!!



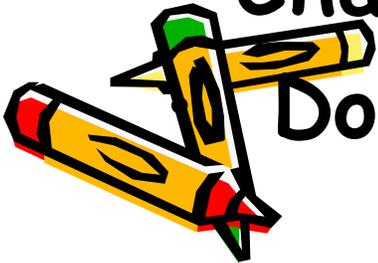
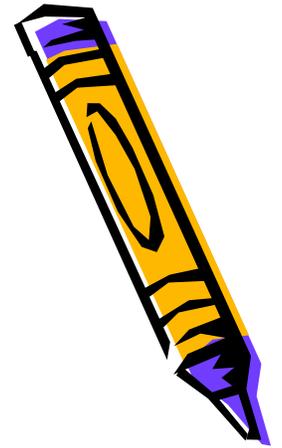
Things to Watch - 3

- Federal budgets
- Local state budgets
- Nationally- other state's budgets
- Local county budgets
- CASELOAD/WORKLOAD
- TA & help from Resource Centers
- Increase cooperation from others
- New leadership taking these challenging times to lead us
- New family dynamics and support



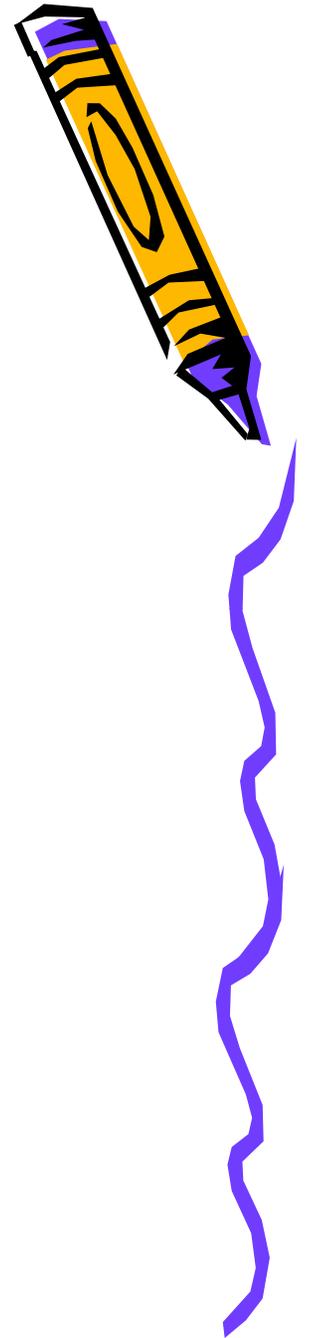
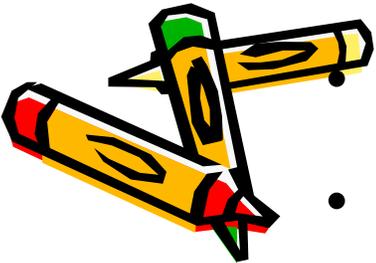
Issues to address

- Services available
- Timely available
- Services done in 12 months or less
- Parent(s) in jail or prison
- TPR with no ID'd adoptive parent
- Length of time of final ruling on TPR
- Process to find an adoptive parent
- Changing mindset of system people
- Doing more with less- \$\$ and people



REDEFINE:

- Who we serve
- Who we support
- Who we include
- Who must include
- What we insist on
- Success
- Failure
- Who the team is
- How we work together



The Old Woman

