

Community-Based Child and Youth Care



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HOME FIRST

Prioritizing what is in the best interest of
children in child welfare services

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De-Institutionalisation = Foster Care First

Deinstitutionalisation of Care home for Children in the 1980's – 2000's

Foster Care as the **Priority Solution** and its consequences

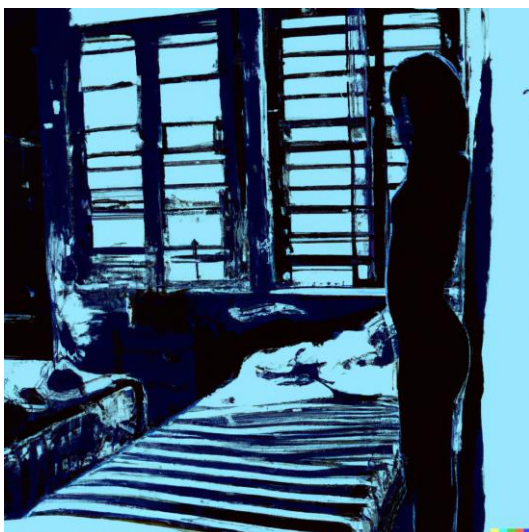


Photo: created in DALL.E2 ai system

- Physical and psychological abuse, maltreatment, loss of contact with biological families and more (Source: *Unveiling neglect in child welfare - Insights from investigation*)
- Foster care alumni often face worse outcomes in adulthood (Source: *National survey - Listening to children in foster care*)
- Acknowledgement, compensation, prevention started in the 2000's (Source: *Children failed by society - Measures regarding abuse and serious neglect*)



Evolution of Deinstitutionalisation Approach: Home First

- Best interest of the child is the guiding principle
- It can be beneficial for the child to remain in the family, wider family and familiar social environment
- Participation and influence

Photo: Härryda kommun

Implementing the Home First Approach

Consult the parents and assess if the child can remain in the family using **The Signs of Safety** method

- If remaining with them is not an option, we try to find a place in the closer family network or same social environment
- Only if it is in the best interest of the child, we take it completely out of the family environment



Photo: Signs of safety logotype

Key Elements for Successful Home First Implementation



Prevention and early intervention in crises



A good dialog with parents in atmosphere of trust



Collaboration with preschool and school personnel so they can contact social services when concerned about children, mutual trust is important



Establishing Family Centers with multidisciplinary teams



Photo: Härryda kommun

Conclusion

- Work with the families and their network to improve the child's well being
- Foster care should be one of the last options in the best interest of the child
- Prevention and a well-trained workforce in childcare services and schools are essential for effective early intervention

Where placement in institution is still necessary



Photos: SIS, Statens institutionsstyrelse, Sweden

- Youths with severe problems
- Aggressive behavior and violence
- Substance abuse
- Criminal conduct

Many of these youths come from troubled families, and most have struggled in school

**Thank you for
listening**

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