Pathways

Pathways Options



Early Exit

- Expected disposition within 0-3 months
- Appropriate when children are placed with, or in the custody of a parent by the end of the TCH or by the 90 day status hearing
- Arguably, if a child is in the care of a parent, they do not fit the statutory definition of being a child in need of care and protection and the matter should be dismissed expeditiously
- These cases should involve very little court intervention in the family

Short Term Intervention

- Expected disposition within 3 6 months
- Appropriate when children remain in DCF custody at the 90 status hearing
- Barriers to reunification are clearly identified and the parents are engaged
- Reunification is expected within 6 months of filing
- Or, when parents have abandon the proceeding and are not engaged at all
- •If there is not significant progress toward reunification at the 6 month point, schedule a trial
- •These cases will have minimal court involvement, other than the status hearing, a pretrial and disposition (through dismissal or prima facie trial)

Moderate Intervention

- •Expected disposition within 6 12 months
- Appropriate when children remain in court-ordered custody after the status hearing, and are not reunified within the first year
- Dual focus on identifying needs and services as well as confirming trial readiness
- An adjudicatory hearing could help to clarify barriers to reunification, as well as set the stage for R&R if needed
- •If children are with kin, permanent custody, guardianship or adoption by agreement should be considered carefully
- These cases may have moderate court involvement through pre-trial motions and an adjudicatory hearing or trial

Complex Intervention

- Expected disposition within 12 18
- Appropriate for cases with complex clinical and/or legal issues which demand additional time, attention and litigation
- •These cases should be monitored by the court to make sure that progress is being made to clarify clinical and/or legal issues in order to narrow the focus of litigation as quickly as possible
- •These cases may have moderate to significant court involvement
- Once the complexity is clarified, it may actually move to a different path