Effects of the Opioid Crisis On Individuals and Systems
How is the crisis hindering human services programs from meeting their objectives?
The Maryland Department of Human Services is the state’s primary social service provider, serving over 1 million people annually. The Department aggressively pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provides preventive services, and protects vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City.
The Vision For Maryland

• Maryland families will be safe and economically stable
  ─ Transitional supports for families
  ─ Funding innovative practice on the local level

• We will be deliberate about how we apply a Two-Gen lens across programs, policies, and agencies
  ─ ASCEND Network Best Practice Model
  ─ Braiding funds, breaking silos, correcting contradictory policies

• We will use rigorous measurement and sound evaluation practices as tools to hold ourselves accountable for accomplishing our mission.
Our Structure

Social Services Administration

Family Investment Administration

Child Support Administration
Intergenerational Poverty in Maryland

• 717,463 families live in poverty
  – 19% increase from 20 years ago
  – 13.3% of children
  – 37% of children in poverty do not have any employed parent, either FT or PT
Intergenerational Poverty in Maryland

% of child population in each jurisdiction in poverty

- Allegany: 24.7%
- Anne Arundel: 7.1%
- Baltimore City: 9.3%
- Calvert: 6.3%
- Caroline: 5.7%
- Carroll: 15.4%
- Cecil: 11%
- Charles: 9.7%
- Dorchester: 28.4%
- Frederick: 18%
- Garrett: 9.8%
- Harford: 5.8%
- Kent: 18.9%
- Montgomery: 8.7%
- Prince George's: 13.7%
- Queen Anne's: 9.2%
- Saint Mary's: 9.9%
- Somerset: 10.9%
- Talbot: 19.4%
- Washington: 21.1%
- Wicomico: 13.9%
- Worcester: 13.3%
- State of Maryland: 19.5%
- USA: 19.5%
Two-Generation Approach

Improves outcomes for whole families by coordinating and aligning services, policies, and systems to promote economic self-sufficiency and security.
Cross System Collaboration To Address The Opioid Crisis:

Who Is Working Together?

- Department of Human Services
- Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- Maryland Department of Health
- Opioid Command Center
Challenges and Barriers to Serving Families Struggling with Substance Use Disorder

- Lack of Coordination across state agencies
- Difficulty sharing information across agencies
- Difficulty collecting specific data points
Challenges and Barriers to Serving Families Struggling with Substance Use Disorder

- Service Array
- Trauma Responsive Services
- Steady Increase of Substance Exposed Newborns
Barriers Specific to Intervening with Substance Exposed Newborns

- Inconsistent testing and reporting practices among providers
- Lack of universal screening and referral tool for MA and private patients with SUD
Barriers Specific To Intervening with Substance Exposed Newborns

- Engagement of MAT and private practitioners who prescribe Suboxone, Subutex and Methadone
- Lack of substance use monitoring in patients who had been prescribed medical marijuana before pregnancy
- Access to quick treatment
- Lack of in-patient beds for parents with children
Family Support Administration
Challenges and Barriers

- Intersection of Poverty and Opioid Use
- Fear of Losing Benefits/Legal Ramifications
- Lack of Opioid Use Disorder Programs Tailored Specifically to TANF recipients’ needs
- Work Participation
- Compliance Culture Within FIA
Child Support Administration Challenges and Barriers

• Lack of IV-D Funding for Noncustodial Parent Employment and Training Programs
• Changing an Enforcement Culture of the Workforce
Opportunities To Better Support Children and Families

- Train child-serving professionals about what happens in other systems and agencies
  - Medicaid Funding and Health Care System
- Remove Stigma and Shifting Culture of Child Removal
- Break Down Silos Between Systems
- Understand and Align Funding Streams
- Create mobile response teams