

Testimony - Legislative Hearing: Children's Trust Fund

April 17, 2024

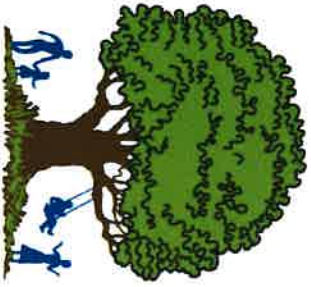
Good morning. My name is Paul DiLorenzo, and I am the Chairman of the Children's Trust Fund Board. In my full-time role, I serve as the Executive Director of the Salem Health and Wellness Foundation in New Jersey. I began my career in child welfare in 1976 as a caseworker in Philadelphia. I have also served in state government at the Pennsylvania Office of Children, Youth and Families as a Special Assistant and in Philadelphia as the Director of Children's Policy. Prior to those roles, I spent 13 years at Casey Family Programs and in various consulting roles around the country. I live in Montgomery County, PA.

I'm excited to be here, and humbled to be serving as the Chair of a Board that includes a number of very impressive individuals from all over the Commonwealth. Like myself, many of the Board members are very recent appointees and as such we are using this as an opportunity to clarify our "North Star". In a recent meeting that included most of the Board members, we affirmed our commitment to supporting children, their families, and the communities in which they live. The best way to keep kids safe and thriving is to assure that their families have the right balance of parenting information, economic/ healthcare resources, and supportive communities.

I want to use my time today to provide you with an overview of the Children's Trust Fund Board and how it has had an impact in Pennsylvania. Though the enabling legislation is somewhat dated, the Trust Fund's purpose is still relevant and necessary. I'm confident that the new Board members will work to keep kids safe and families strong.

Before we get into the slide presentation, I want to thank the Center for Schools and Communities and our partners at the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning for their support to the Children's Trust Fund Board.

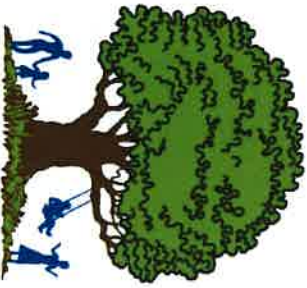
(Preview PowerPoint slides from planning meeting.)



**Pennsylvania
Children's Trust Fund**

**House Children & Youth Committee
Informational Meeting**

April 17, 2024



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**Pennsylvania Children's
Trust Fund**



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Purpose

Fund community-based program and services for child abuse and neglect in Pennsylvania. (Section 2)

Historically the board has focused on primary and secondary abuse prevention programs.



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History of Children's Trust Funds

- Michigan Pediatrician Dr. Ray Helfer
 - Vision to create a trust fund for the care and safety of our children
- 1980 – first CTF established in Kansas
- 1988 – PA's CTF established (Act 151)
- 1989 – National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds established
- Trust funds established in most of the 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico
- Funds receive revenue from a variety of sources



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CTF Structure - Nationally

State Children's Trust and Prevention Funds take on a variety of structures including:

- Governmental
- Quasi-governmental
- Stand-alone private non-profit 501c3
- Adjunct non-profit arm of another structure
- Combination



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CTF Revenue - Nationally

- State Children's Trust and Prevention Funds derive revenue from:
 - Marriage/divorce fees
 - Birth certificate fees (traditional and/or heirloom)
 - License plate fees
 - Income tax check-off fees
 - Interest on investments
 - Donations/Fundraising
 - State line-item funds
 - Federal funds, i.e. CBCAP, MIECHV
 - Combination



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PA CTF Statutory Requirements

- Board composition and terms
- Revenue sources
- Grant award process
 - Match requirements
- Development of a biennial state plan and annual report
- Creation of a nonprofit supporting organization
 - Dissolved in 2020
- Staff support from the Department of Human Services
 - OCDEL
 - Legal
 - Policy
 - Procurement
 - OCYF



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PA CTF Structure

- 15-member Board of Directors
 - Nine public members
 - Six legislative members
- Deputy Secretary for DHS Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) serves as Executive Director
 - Designated to the Family Support Program manager
- OCDEL, DHS and contracted agency staff provide additional support

Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund Board

Legislature

appoints

Governor

Department of Human Services

carries out the work of the board

6

legislative

board members

9

public

board members

Office of Child Development and Early

Learning Deputy Secretary

serves as

CTF Executive Director

Executive Committee:

Chair | Vice-Chair

Secretary | Treasurer

Other Board

Committees

OCDEL staff:

Program Manager

Fiscal

Contracted

Technical

Assistance/Profess.
Development

DHS staff:

Legal

Legislative Affairs

Procurement





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PA CTF Mission / Guiding Principles

- Influence public policy and change social attitudes
- Initiate prevention programs that strengthen families, build communities, and empower individuals
- Encourage collaboration, replication, strong leadership, flexibility, and diversity
- Recognize responsibility as stewards of a trust fund
- Ensuring the safety of the children of Pennsylvania



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PA CTF “We Believe That...”

- **Every child** has a right to:
 - Be safe, nurtured, and protected from child abuse and neglect
 - Reach his or her fullest potential
 - Grow up in a supportive, stable family
- **Every community** has a right to:
 - Be trusted and supported to make decisions about appropriate services
- **Respect the diversity** of Pennsylvania communities
 - Every person is valued; each community has its own culture



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PA CTF Funding

- Constant revenue
 - \$10.00 surcharge on marriage and divorce applications
 - Investment income
 - Donation option through state income tax returns
 - \$5.00 donation option through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation online renewal services
- Deposited into a special, non-lapsing state account



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How the CTF Board Does Its Work

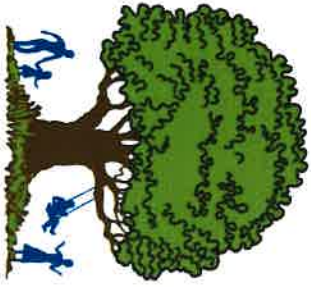
- Quarterly board meetings
 - Led by the Board Chair with the assistance of OCDEL and DHS
 - Information Sharing
 - Planning
 - Minutes
- Board committee structure
- Committee chairperson
 - Schedules committee meetings
 - Develops meeting agendas
 - Provide updates



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Board Member Responsibilities

- Board member position
 - Participate in the grant process
 - Manage the Children's Trust Fund
 - Actively participate in board meetings
- Statement of Financial Interest (Ethics Act)
 - Complete the Statement of Financial Interest
 - Annually, but prior to May 1st
- Constitutional Oath of Office
 - Notarize and file your Constitutional Oath of Office with the Secretary of the Commonwealth



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Recent CTF RFAS



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CTF RFA Requirements

- Provide a match to CTF funds
- Primary and secondary prevention
- Work with the whole family
- Provide evidence that the program fits in the community
- Collaborate in the community
 - Coordinate with County Children and Youth agencies
- Incorporate the SPPF framework into the work
 - Build environments in which families can grow their protective factors



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Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework

- SFPF Framework is an approach---not a model
 - Aligned with developmental science and research-informed
 - Protective and Promotive approach that encourages a changed relationship with parents/caregivers
- Five Protective Factors
 - Parental resilience
 - Social connections
 - Knowledge of parenting and child development
 - Concrete support in times of need
 - Social and emotional competence of children

SFPF Framework- Center for the Study of Social Policy www.cssp.org



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PA CTF Grants Awarded

- Number of grants: 335*
- Funding total: \$42,790,561*
- Funding to organizations in all but 7 counties in Pennsylvania
- Current grants:
 - \$50,000 per year in 3-year cohorts
 - Active Cohorts 29, 30, and 31: 17 grantees

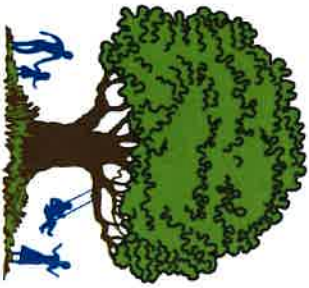
* Number of grants and total funding as of September 2022 – does not include Cohort 31



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CTF Grantees

- Include large and small organizations
- May be housed in community-based non-profits, hospitals, school districts, intermediate units, etc.
- Serve rural, suburban, and urban communities
- Implement nationally recognized evidence-based programs, enhancements to programs, and programs that they have developed
- Partner with families for multi-year or short-term services
- Connect with families through individualized programs or in group-based formats



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Center for Schools and Communities Support



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CSC – Administrative Support

- Participate in the development of Requests for Applications and Review Process
- Enter grantee information into the data system
- Present grantee Revision Requests and Improvement Plans
- Reports
 - Quarterly
 - Site Visit Summary
 - Exit Summaries
 - Annual Report



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CSC – Implementation Support

- Implementation Support and Monitoring
 - Communication and Interaction with Grantees
 - Scheduled Quarterly Calls
 - Responsive Support
 - Intensive Support
 - Review Grantee Reports
 - Site Visits (two within three years)
 - Exit Interview
- Networking among grantees



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CSC – Professional Learning

- Annual Grantee Meeting
- Technical Assistance Webinars
- CSC Family Support Webinars
- News Brief
- Occasional courses on family support topics



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CSC – Statewide Intermediary

- Act as a liaison with CTF Alliance
- Partner with national organizations to provide professional learning to CTF grantees
 - CSSP
 - Be Strong Families
- Facilitate the Strengthening Families Leadership Team
 - Mission
 - Pennsylvania, through the Strengthening Families Leadership Team, works to sustain and weave the Five Protective Factors into policies, program and practice across child and family service systems.
 - Organize meetings
 - Carry out Strategic Plan



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CSC – Staff

- Karen Shanoski, Family Support and Community Engagement Director
- Rijelle Kraft, Family Support Managing Coordinator
- Alexia Brown, Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator
- Jennifer Esposito, Family Support Data Coordinator
- Christine Felicetti, Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator
- Drewanne Kline, Family Support Project Specialist