

# SAFE |

## **Mission: Stop Abuse For Everyone**

CEO: Kelly White and Julia Spann

Team Members: Maddie Glover, Sydni Kipp, Carol Strychalski

Website: <https://www.safeaustin.org/>

## **Measuring What Matters Goal Statement:**

To design and/or research a model of evaluation to inform whether our current model of service provision effectively supports our foster parents.

### **Progress achieved to date:**

- Completed Literature Review
- Identified Best Evaluative Tool Based off Lit Review Data Needs
- Identified Indicators of Support
- Developed Survey Questions Based of Indicators
- Established Team Buy In
- Distributed Surveys to Current and Past Clients
- Analyzed Survey Data
- Identified Findings and Develop Recommendations/Implications

## **What key lessons did your team learn throughout the Measuring What Matters series?**

- Importance of Staff Inclusion When Gathering Feedback
- Importance of Equitable Evaluation
- Closing the Loop (Staff, Clients)
- Importance of Establishing a Learning Culture
- Importance of Utilizing Mixed Methodology to Promote Inclusion in Evaluative Practices.

## **What challenges or roadblocks did your team encounter along the way? How were these addressed, or how do you plan to address them moving forward?**

- Time Constraints (Current Roles, Creating Buy-In, COVID)
  - Being realistic regarding what we could accomplish during each step of evaluation, scaling back as needed.
  - Delegating tasks
  - Setting Deadlines
- Having to be Creative and Adaptive in Choosing an Evaluative Tool
  - Shifting tool from focus group to survey based on Foster Parent and evaluative needs.
- Access to Research Database

## **Looking Ahead**

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### **Next steps toward achieving our evaluation and data goals:**

- Disseminate Results to Staff, Clients and Leadership (Co-CEOs)
  - As to further build a continuous learning culture at SAFE
- Compare Survey Results to Program Quarterly Reports To Determine Next Steps (Focus Groups, Changing Quarterly Report Questions)
- Work Towards Creating a Focus Group to Explore Specific Findings

# Measuring What Matters

Identifying a more accurate Evaluation Tool

- ❖ Maddie Glover - Database Specialist
- ❖ Sydni Kipp - Accreditation and Compliance Specialist
- ❖ Carol Strychalski - Foster and Adopt in Austin Compliance and Services Manager

# SAFE - Foster and Adopt in Austin



**SAFE Mission Statement: Stop Abuse For Everyone**

**Scope of Services:** SAFE's Foster and Adopt in Austin program provides foster care, adoption services, and kinship care to families in Central Texas. With extensive training and an experienced staff, SAFE has developed a program that offers superior supports for foster, kinship, and adoptive families.

**FY 19 Impact:**

**46** children  
placed in  
homes



**38** families  
supported



Over **2000**  
hours of  
training offered



# Measuring Support - Foster & Adoptive Families

## Evaluative Needs:

- Understood there were strengths and weaknesses in FAIA current model of support
  - ◆ Focused on foster parent retention rate and child placement preservation since we hypothesized that supporting the parents would bring better outcomes to the ultimate mission
  - ◆ Needed to identify the indicators of Foster and Adoptive parent support

## Goal Statement:

- To design and/or research a model of evaluation to inform whether our current model of service provision effectively supports our foster parents



# Project Overview

- Completed Literature Review
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  - Identified Indicators of Support
  - Developed Survey Questions Based of Indicators
  - Established Team Buy In
  - Distributed Surveys to Current and Past Clients
  - Analyzed Survey Data
  - Identified Findings and Develop Recommendations/Implications
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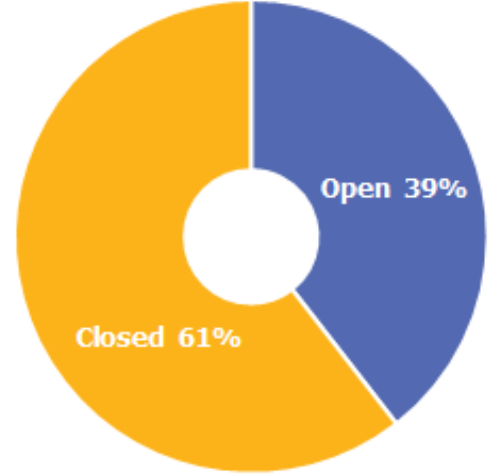
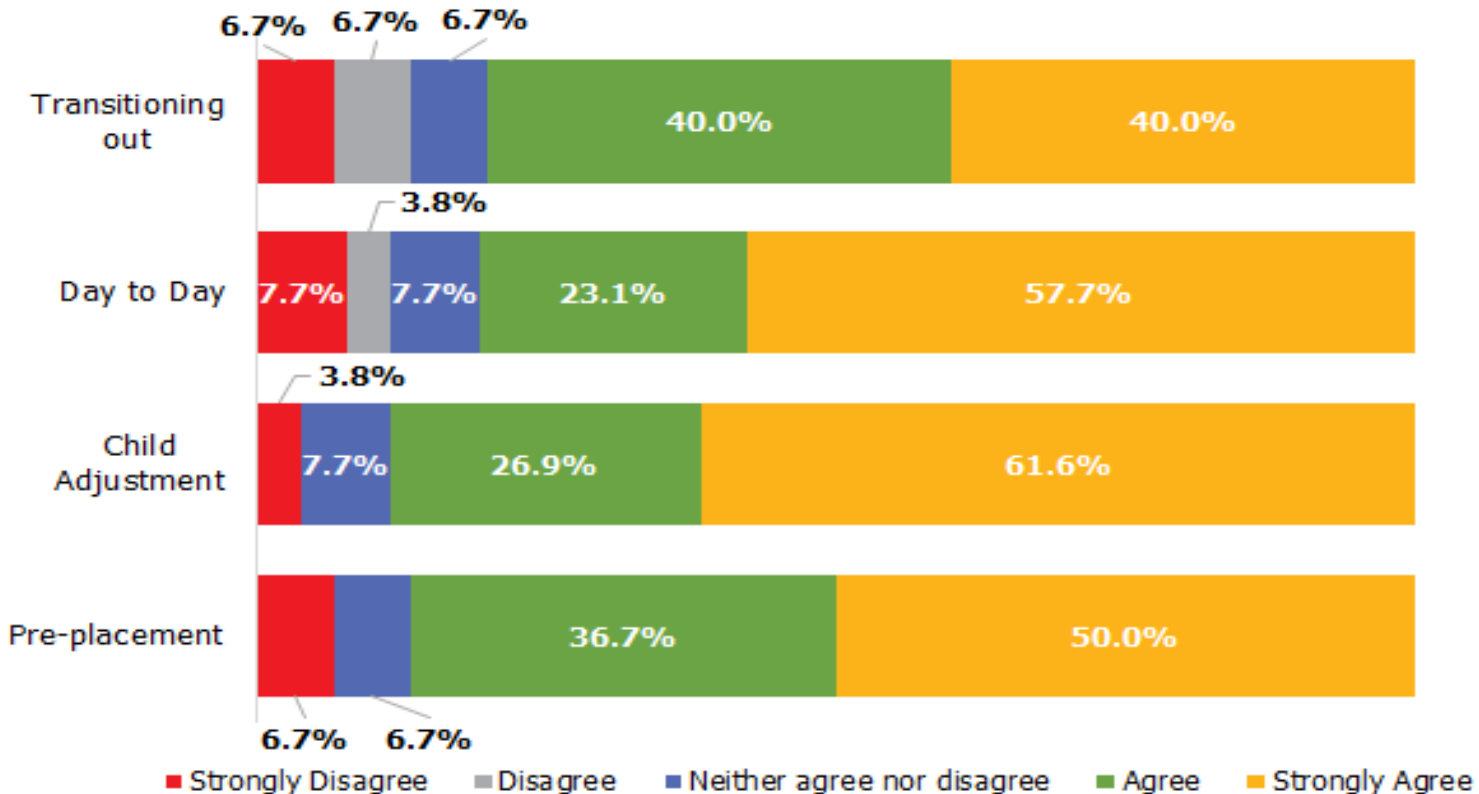
# Key Learnings

- Importance of Staff Inclusion When Gathering Feedback
  - ◆ Promoted Learning Culture, Generated Buy - In
  - ◆ Found we needed to involve staff earlier and spend more time on this step
- Importance of Equitable Evaluation
  - ◆ SAFE's current model of evaluation is leadership focused
  - ◆ Learned so much more by getting all level of staff involved
  - ◆ Including demographic information within our evaluation tool helps identify gaps in services
- Closing the Loop (Staff, Clients)
  - ◆ Discovering we don't currently do this
  - ◆ Using this evaluation to begin and model this process to leadership
- Importance of Establishing a Learning Culture
- Importance of Utilizing Mixed Methodology to Promote Inclusion in Evaluative Practices
  - ◆ Needing to use both staff experience paired with research

**Challenges:** Time Constraints, Picking an Evaluative Tool, Access to Research



Surveyors felt most supported by SAFE during **child's initial adjustment period** while least supported during **child's transition out**



Within a 54% response rate, most responses came from **closed families**

# Looking Ahead

- Disseminate Results to Staff, Clients and Leadership (Co-CEOs)
  - ◆ To further build a continuous learning culture at SAFE
- Compare Survey Results to Program Quarterly Reports To Determine Next Steps (Focus Groups, Changing Quarterly Report Questions)
- Work Towards Creating a Focus Group to Explore Specific Findings
- Determine Use of MWM Stipends

