The vision is to transform Florida’s child welfare system of care to work more effectively with children and families toward achieving child safety.

5 Safety Threshold Criteria

A family condition is out of control. A family condition is severe. The severe effect is imminent: reasonably could happen in proximate time soon. The family condition is observable and can be clearly described and articulated. There is a vulnerable child.

Out of control - family conditions, behavior, or situations, which are unrestrained, unmanaged, without limits of monitoring; not subject to the ability within the family’s control.

Severity - consistent with harm that can result in serious physical injury, disability, terror, extreme fear or death. A line where the family conditions could result is harsh pain.

Imminent - the belief that threats to child safety are likely to become active without delay.

Observable - the families behaviors, conditions, and situations are real, can be seen, not suspicion or feelings.

Vulnerable child - A child is dependent on others for protection and is exposed to circumstances that make them powerless. Vulnerability is judged according to age, physical/emotional developmental level, ability to communicate needs. Outlines child’s inability to protect themselves or seek help from others.

Motivational Interviewing

Is a form of collaborative conversation for strengthening a person’s own motivation and commitment to change. It is a person-centered style for addressing the common problem, of ambivalence about change by paying particular attention to the language change. It is designed to strengthen an individual’s motivation for and movement toward a specific goal eliciting and exploring the person’s own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion.

A present danger plan is an intervention designed to control or manages the current dangerous situation so that the child is protected while a FFA (Family Functioning Assessment).