



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

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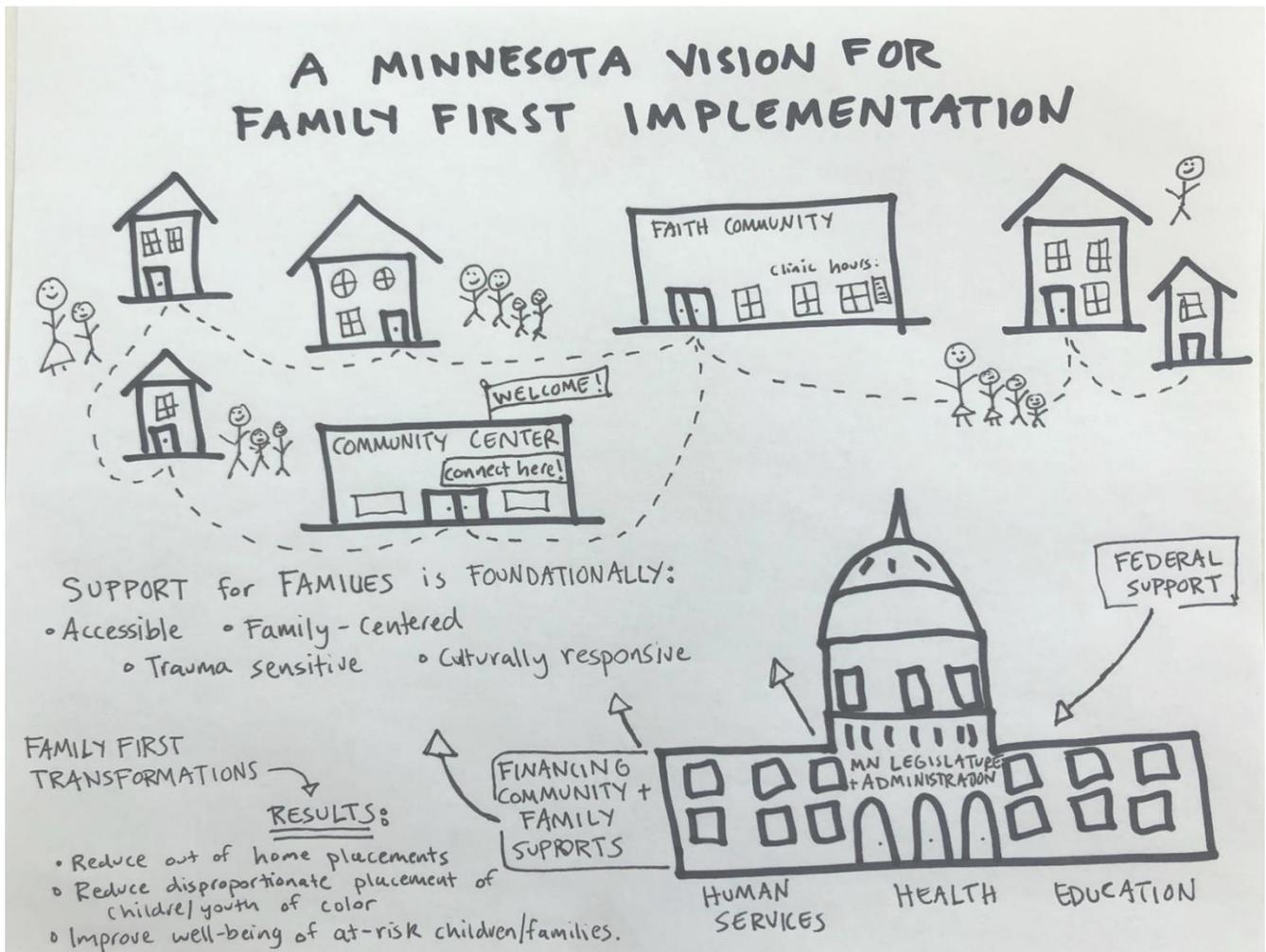
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How Will Minnesota Look in a Family First World?

January, 2020

A Vision for Family First Implementation in Minnesota

A Transformed System of Care for Children and Families powered by the Family First Prevention Services Act leverages new flexibility in Federal Title IV-E child welfare funding as a tool to promote prevention and early intervention to keep families intact and avoid out of home care. Newly designed interventions and supports that directly impact children and families 'at risk' for out of home placement (including those who have exited out of home care) should be deeply rooted in a delivery system that is: (1) accessible, (2) family-centered, (3) trauma sensitive and (4) culturally responsive. Families First transitions should catalyze efforts that build capacity in Minnesota to: (A) reduce Minnesota's out of home care placement rates, (B) reduce disparities in the state's child welfare system and (C) improve the well-being of at risk children and families.



When children, youth and families require intensive services to heal, build new skills, and gain stability to reunify as families, Family First values should sustain and children, youth and families should experience services that are: accessible, family-centered, trauma sensitive and culturally responsive. This values-enhanced intensive services continuum should include:

- Early childhood assessments and individualized service plans with in-home skills, therapy, group and family therapy and skills
- Community based intensive care for families with children experiencing mental illness
- Intensive Treatment in Foster Care
- Active support and skills building for parents
- Short-term crisis placements for mental health stabilization
- Short-term diagnostic programs with active referrals at discharge
- Respite stays for children and youth
- Foster care designed with the Quality Parenting Initiative-MN approach
- Residential treatment, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities
- Community based group care for select youth who cannot live safely in a family setting
- Aftercare for children, youth and their families