



**Emergency Child Care:
Maximizing Resources &
Reassuring Children**

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What is emergency child care?

- * 24 hour response to families experiencing a crisis that requires immediate child care
- * Voluntary or involuntary
- * Specific criteria must be met in order to utilize service
- * Care can be requested by families, law enforcement, or physicians
- * Service organizations can also refer families

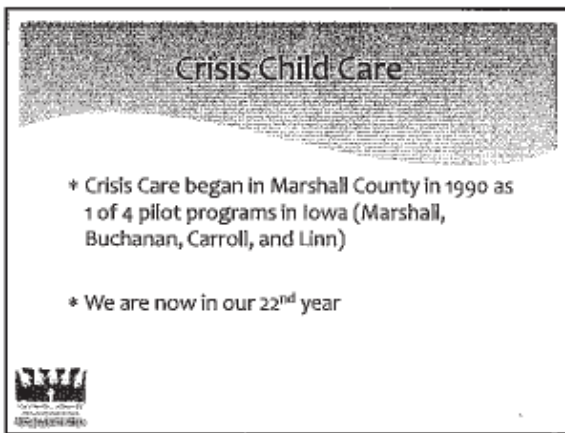


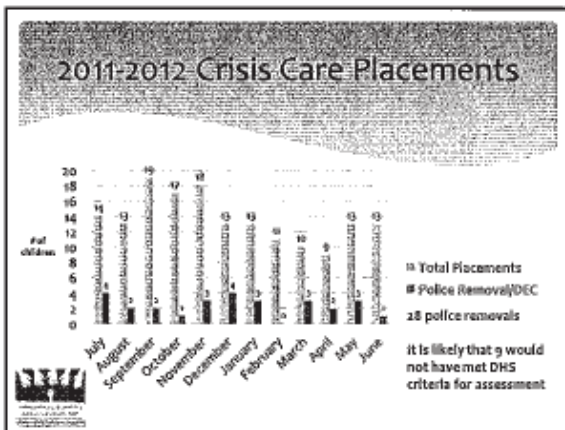
Who provides the child care?

- * Child care is provided by licensed foster parents or registered day care homes/centers
- * Providers must complete additional requirements as determined by the emergency child care program
- * Providers are paid an hourly rate per child, and centers are paid based on their half day and full day rates











2011-2012 Statistics

- There were 154 unduplicated children served by Crisis Care
- 84 families utilized the service
- 7264.75 hours of care were provided
- 18 out of 28 police removals were DEC cases
- 411.5 hours of care were for DEC children




How is emergency care utilized in a DEC case?




The Process:

- Law enforcement discovers illegal/controlled substances and children are present (usually in a home or in a vehicle)
- A call is made to the 24 hour emergency number
- The individual on call meets law enforcement at the scene (2nd worker is called to assist if necessary)
- Information is gathered regarding the children's names, birth dates, allergies, medications, etc.




The Process:

- On call worker talks with the kids about what will happen (go to dr. and then to safe place for the night) * **Law enforcement can be very helpful here!**
- Help children find clothes, favorite blanket, stuffed animal, etc. (have items for kids in vehicle as well)
- Transport children to physician or ER and complete physicals
- Contact a provider to arrange care (time frame for calling a provider can vary depending on time of removal)




The Process:

- Explain to children who they will stay with for the night and what will happen the following day
- Transport to provider's home
- DHS makes contact with crisis care to confirm child's location and plans for placement after 24 hours are arranged
- Debriefing held through Assistant County Attorney for all DEC cases (LE, DHS, child care, county attorney)
- Notify removing agency of placement arrangements when kids leave emergency child care




What if this plan does not work?

- **MUST HAVE A BACK UP PLAN!!!**
- Collaborate with law enforcement, DHS, and your local county attorney's office to create a back up plan.
- Marshall Co. - if no DHS involvement, children must be released at 24 hours to a parent or guardian.
- County attorney's office may need to be involved in order to secure an order for continued removal.




Benefits to DHS

- * Children are in a safe placement for 24 hours
- * DHS does not need to seek a removal order in the middle of the night
- * Allows time to locate and make a thorough assessment of potential relatives for placement
- * Can prevent an unnecessary foster care placement
- * Children's location is known so it is easy to have face to face contact with the children




Benefits to Law Enforcement

- * Law enforcement can focus on the investigation
- * Allows officers/detectives to continue with their duties without concern for where the children are or who is watching them
- * Provides 24 hours to thoroughly assess other placement options
- * Police removal of children can provide an immediate impact on the parent(s) regarding the seriousness of the situation




Benefits to the County Attorney's Office

- * In prosecution of child endangerment/neglect, the removal reinforces officer's testimony regarding the danger to the children
- * Provides an immediate point of contact for the children and their location/safety concerns
- * Provides a witness regarding child safety issues
- * Debriefing at county attorney's office provides opportunity for all parties to share information and recommendations regarding future placement




Benefits to the Children

- Law enforcement can help prepare child for what will happen – they are better prepared when on call worker shows up to pick them up
- On call worker can help the child locate a special toy/item they want to take with them, or provide a toy, stuffed animal, coloring book, clean clothes, etc.
- Child has one worker with them from the time they leave home until they are brought to the child care provider



Benefits to the Children

- On call worker has time to talk with the child and answer questions and can provide support during check up with the doctor
- On call worker knows the care providers and can tell the child about the home they will be spending the night at
- On call worker can help prepare the child for what will happen the following day




Benefits to the Children


- The children are safe!!!
- The children can be kept home from school in order to prevent relatives/unauthorized individuals from showing up and attempting to take them
- The children have spent time with a positive and caring individual! This event will impact them for the rest of their lives – a positive experience with emergency care can help reduce the stress and anxiety they have as a result of the situation

The kids will have questions!

- Be honest with the kids – if you don't know, just tell them you don't know
- Be prepared to answer "why is mom and/or dad in a cop car"
- Will mom and dad be together?
- How many days will mom sleep there (jail)?
- What are the police doing at my house right now?
- Are my cats/dogs ok?




What is needed for an emergency child care program?




24 Hour Staff

- The ability to have a staff person available every night of the week, on weekends, and during holidays.
- Works well on a rotation
- Crisis Child Care has 6 crisis line workers – generally we each take one night a week and one weekend a month.
- Must have a valid driver's license and auto insurance
- Criminal history and child abuse registry checks




Child Care Providers

- Registered day care homes/centers and licensed foster parents (all criminal history and child abuse registry checks are done, there are training requirements, CPR/first aid & mandatory reporter training is required, etc.)
- Your own agency may have additional requirements for the providers
- Crisis Care requires an application, references, home visits, auto and home insurance, program training, and providers must sign a contract.




Program Forms/Documentation

- Forms for police/physician removals
- Parent contract for voluntary placements
- Forms for documenting placement details/contact information for family, information on the kids
- Payroll/mileage documentation for providers
- Daily log for providers to document the placement
- Establish a program manual in accordance with state codes if applicable




Community Awareness

- Your community needs to be informed of the services available and how to utilize the service
- Ensure that the police department, local sheriff, DHS, physicians, and local hospital are aware of the service and how to make a referral or request care for children
- Crisis Care is actually written into our local DEC protocols




FUNDING

- Marshall county's program is funded through United Way, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, private donations and donations from service groups, decategorization funds and miscellaneous grants.
- Grants are available in multiple places! Check with large chain stores like Wal-Mart, local businesses, local service groups like Kiwanis, local cable, phone, and electric companies.
- Crisis Care has received grant funding from Theisen's (farm supply store) and Prairie Meadows Casino.



What to consider when looking at funding?

- Staff time – making placement arrangements, accompanying a child to dr., being on call
- Payment to providers (mileage and care)
- Provider reimbursement for necessary items – diapers, wipes, formula, etc.
- Program supplies – car seats, clothing, blankets, laundry detergent, shampoo/body wash, toys/activities for kids, diapers/wipes



Helpful Websites

- www.preventchildabuse.org
- www.unitedway.org
- www.nationaldec.org
- www.foundationcenter.org
- www.grants.gov

