

Child Protective Services Reform – An IOPA Tier One Policy Issue

Here's my (IOPACHief@policytalk.org) bottom line as a parent of two adopted boys; abused and neglected before we got them. Because of their 'baggage' (RAD – reactive attachment disorder), they terrorized us; had us fearing for our lives quite often and nearly killed us at least once. **When children need services, especially outpatient services, IT IS NOT OKAY FOR THEM TO END UP ON A WAITLIST**; for their parents to have to choose to continue being terrorized or having to risk legal jeopardy to escape them. We know from our support system created by the existing processes that our terrifying experience was not unusual, if anything, it was tame compared to what other adoptive families went through.

IOPA aims to devise a system without persistent, large shortages, without significantly increased public funding, and for political reasons the process we conceive probably needs to stand alongside the existing way of doing things; a new process to opt into. I'm an economist, and the only way to NOT have persistent shortages is through a price system. Don't assume what that means. There are many ways to drive the balancing of supply and demand.

IOPA will need expert help to understand 'the box' before IOPA can lead thinking outside of it. So, IOPA needs to enlist some experts in existing state systems to get a [proposal written](#) that would foster exploration into promising reforms. If such a person is in your network, please connect us to them: IOPACHief@policytalk.org

We'll need to do some research to learn things, test hypotheses, and then substantiate our recommendations. So, our first huge accomplishment will be a fundable research proposal.