

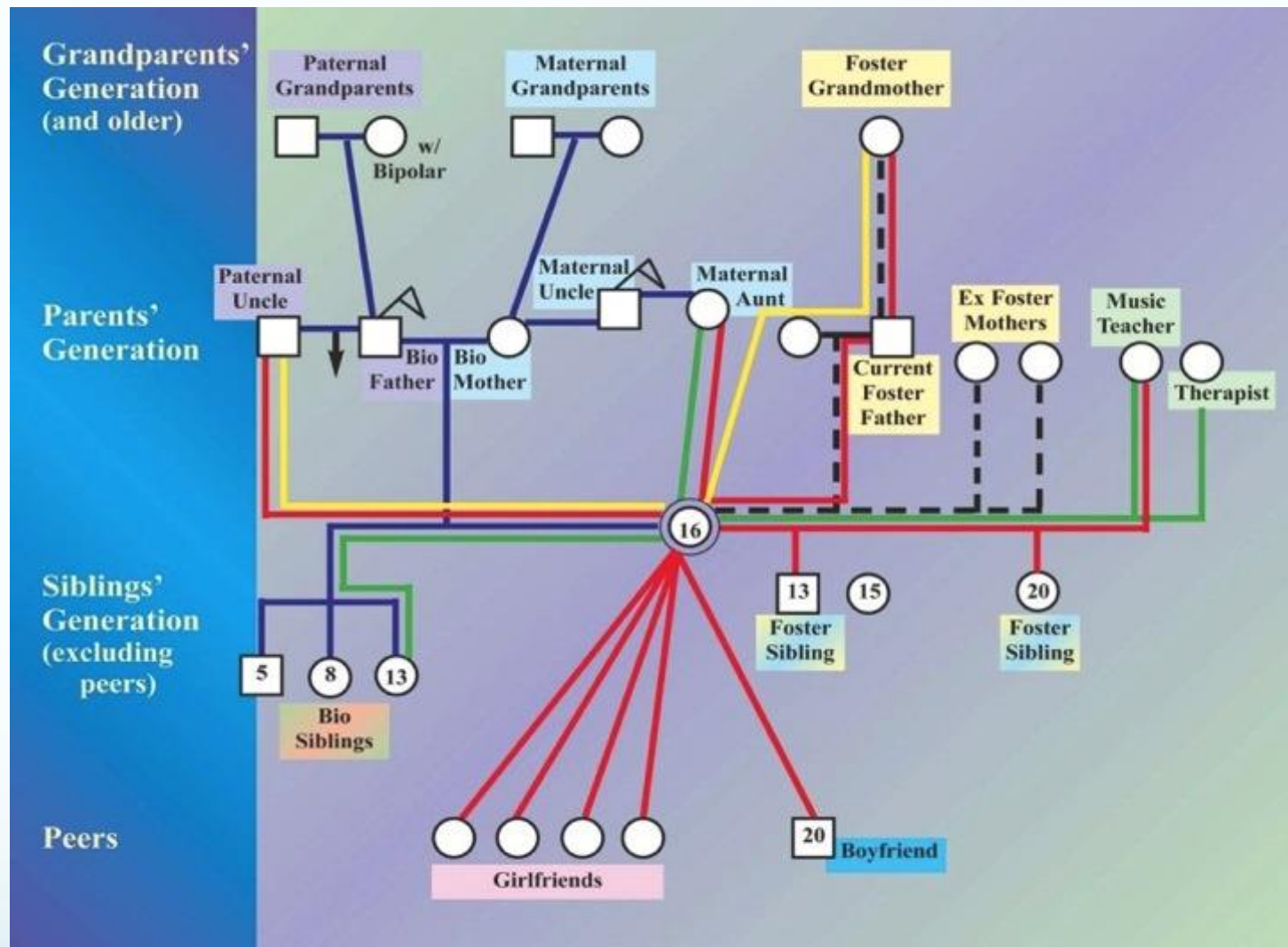
Permanency: Beyond a Placement

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**2014 Utah Court Improvement
Summit: "The Fabric of Family"
August 2014**

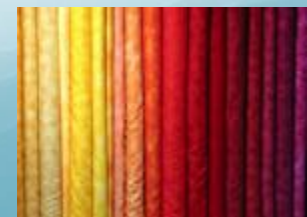




Who loves you?, Who teaches you?

Who is related to you biologically?

Who shares your values or passions?





Happy Birthday Mary!



Permanence: Not a Placement

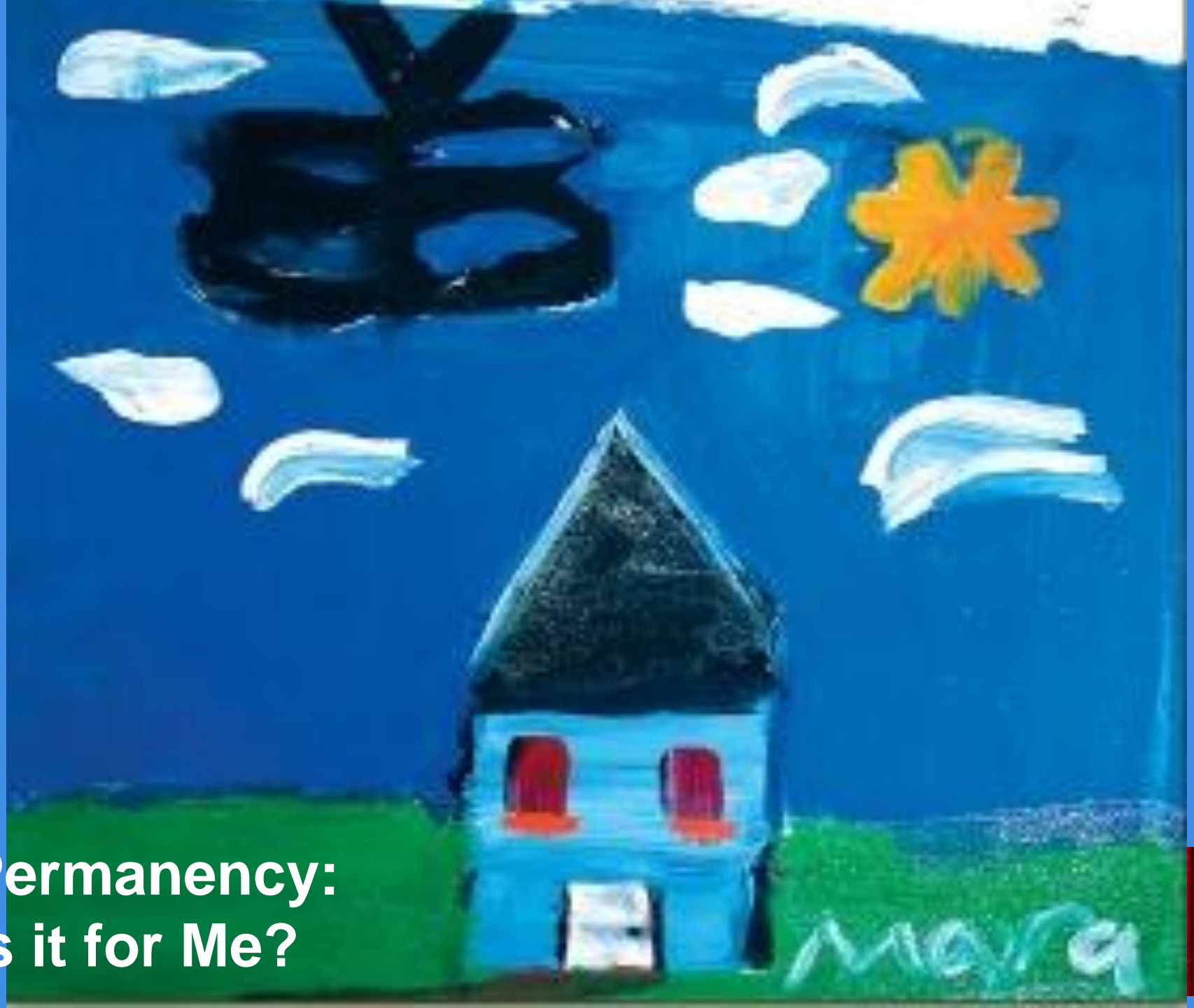
The Lifetime View of Permanence

~ 3 Tests

- The “Miss-me-when-I-don’t-show-up” Test
- The “Age 34” Test
- The “Hospital” Test



**Permanency:
Is it for Me?**



BOTH/AND



1992

PAGE 2

Many Youth Do Exceptionally Well!



Outcomes for Youth in Care

| | Former Foster Youth | General Population |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Currently Employed | 48% | 76% |
| Median Earnings | \$8,000 | \$18,300 |
| Have a Bank Account | <50% | 85% |
| Have Health Insurance | 57% | 78% |
| Been Pregnant (women) | >75% | 40% |
| Impregnated a Partner (men) | 61% | 28% |
| High School Diploma or GED | | 3X more likely |
| Have been Homeless or Couch-Surfed | 37% | 1% |



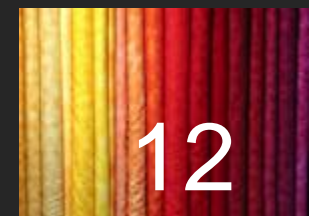
- Post traumatic stress disorder rates **double** that of war veterans
- Serious untreated health conditions
- Children with an identified disability are more than **three times more likely to be maltreated** than other children
- Higher rate of becoming victims of crime, or engaging in criminal activity—over 270,000 American prisoners were once in foster care

**Good
News!**

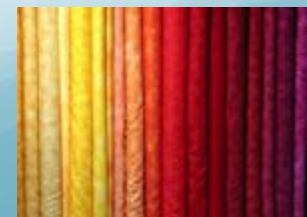
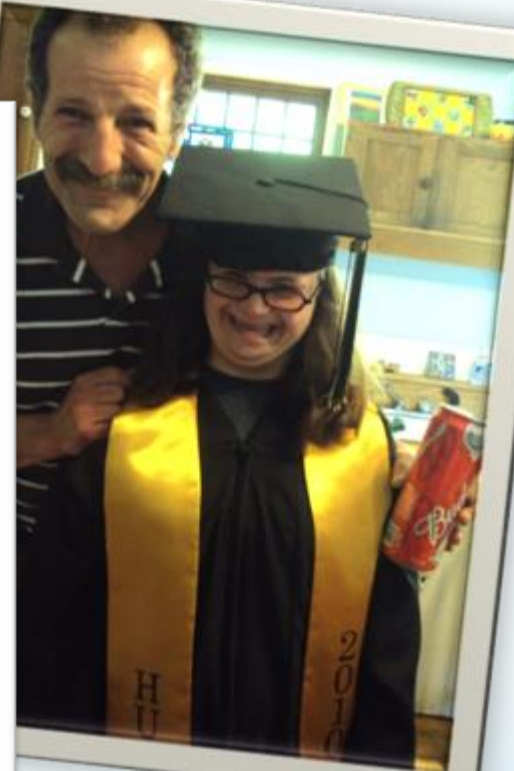




Let's Take a "P.
O.'ed" Look at
few of these
Data Points



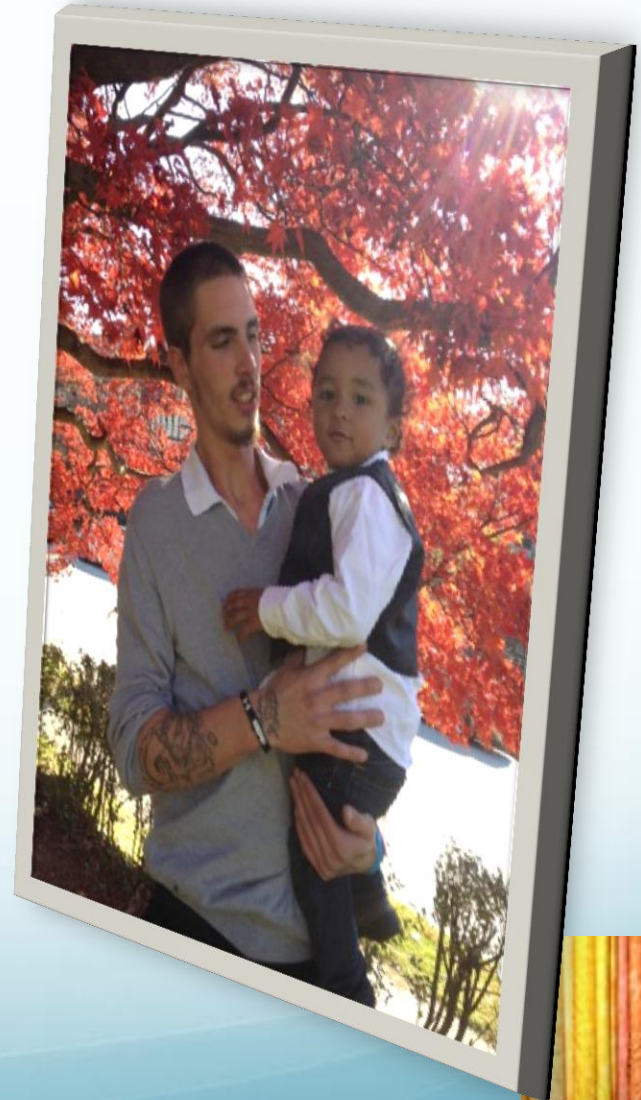
Fewer HS diplomas, More GEDs, Fewer College Grads: What's Permanence Got to Do with It?



**By Age 23 – nearly twice as many pregnancies –
What's Permanence Got to Do with it?**



4 years after Foster Care: 37% Homeless ~ What's Permanency Got to Do With It?



270,000 U.S. Prisoners were once in foster care: What's Permanence Got to Do With it?



Youth with Severe Disabilities in Foster Care: What's Permanence Got to Do With It?





You Expect THIS



But you get this



time

expertise

resources

different

3

new

more



HOPE



RESILIENCE



Role of Social Services

- Laser-focus on permanency at all times
- Understand impact of trauma on children, youth and families
- Maintain a sense of urgency
- Continually engage the child, youth and family
- Use a team approach



Role of Judges & Courts

NOT to DO social work, but to

- ◆ **Inspire Hope**
- ◆ **Support good social work**
- ◆ **Create Accountability**



Five Themes Of Courts & Social Service Agencies Working Together to Improve Permanency Outcomes

- Use and Understand Data
- Common Language & Respectful Communication
- Awareness & Exploration of All Permanency Options
- Shared Sense of Urgency
- Children & Families Have a Voice



TEAM



**A Continuum:
Many Doors to
Permanency**



| | Reunification with Bio Parents | Legal Guardianship/ Custodianship | Adoption | Kinship Foster Care | “Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement” (APPLA) |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| LEGAL STATUS Birth parents rights Caregiver Rights | | | | | |
| Legal Documentation | | | | | |
| Decision Making for Child/ren | | | | | |
| Relationship with Birth Parent (s) With Sibling(s) Visits | | | | | |
| Financial Assistance for child and/or caregiver(s) | | | | | |
| Child’ s Legal Name | | | | | |
| Inheritance issues | | | | | |
| Returning child to state agency? | | | | | |
| Other issues? | | | | | |





Support Caregivers





SIBLING BOND

VOICE



Support Permanence for Older Youth

Supervisors and Judges - Ask the worker:

- Have you talked to the youth about permanency and discussed all options?
- What steps are you taking to address concerns and find a permanent connection for this youth?
- What additional support do you, as a worker, need to move ahead with permanency for this youth?



Support Permanency for Older Youth

Workers and Judges - Ask the Youth:

- What does permanency mean to you?
- Are there important people in your life you want to stay connected to?
- Do you understand the differences between permanency options?
- Tell me about your future plans? How might having a family in your life help you to reach your goals?



Five Steps to Achieving Permanence





5 Key Questions



Thank you!

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