**Marsh, Christine (PS4-B)**

**Intensive Safety Services (ISS)**

**Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project**

A panel presentation with the following members: Christine Marsh, LCSW, Senior Director of Child Abuse and Trauma Services with Family & Children's Services, Keitha Wilson, Prevention Program Administrator with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services, and Debra Hecht, Ph.D, with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Children removed from their home due to child abuse and neglect often experience additional trauma from separation that occurs through removal. Recognizing that removal can cause additional harm to children and families, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) analyzed 5 years of data which revealed a large number of children were removed and returned to their home within 6 months or less.

As a result of this and other data, the Intensive Safety Services (ISS) project was created. ISS behavioral health professionals work with families while allowing the children to remain safely in the custody of their parents, some who may be in an out-of-home safety plan arrangement, with caregivers close to the family, for 30-60 days. Following a developed predictive risk model, cases are randomized and either receive ISS services or a Services As Usual track.

ISS staff are Master’s level, licensed or under licensure behavioral health professional who utilize Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and other evidenced based or best practice interventions to support caregivers, link to and remove barriers to community services and transition the family to work with a Comprehensive Home Based Services provider. ISS staff work closely with Family Centered Services workers from DHS and see the caregivers for an average of 2-3 visits and 10 hours a week for up to 6 weeks.

DHS management, the University of Oklahoma CCAN and providers will offer a panel presentation to share outcomes, implementation experiences, lessons learned, etc. since the implementation of ISS.