Child and Family Sector

- 1.25 million children were abused or neglected between 2005 and 2006.
- Direct and indirect costs of child maltreatment were approximately $103.8 billion in 2007.
- Direct costs include hospitalization and law enforcement, while indirect costs include juvenile delinquency, criminal justice system, and lost productivity to society.

Seven Core Problems

1. Children’s Rights
   Family Preservation and Support Services Act of 1984 requires measures to prevent the need for removing child and, if removed, reasonable efforts to reunify child with family.

2. Quality of Care
   Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 allowed expansion and flexibility of child welfare services programs, as well as competitive grants to regional partnerships.

3. Culturally Competent Care
   Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 eliminated delaying or denying placement based on race or ethnicity. However, same-race placements should be the preferred course of action in some cases.

4. Prevention

5. Affordable and Accessible Care
   Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 expanded the provisions for independent-living programs and extended Medicaid to youth until the age of 21.
   In California, the Higher Education Outreach and Assistance Act for Emancipated Foster Youth requires state colleges and universities to provide outreach services and technical assistance.

6. Care for Mental Distress
   In 1999, $15 million funded substance abuse treatment and prevention services for TANF clients.

7. Care Linked to Communities
   Children in this sector are simultaneously involved in other public sectors, such as mental health, criminal justice, immigration, and education.
   Policies should be cut across sectors to streamline services in agencies.

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