

DECAT 101

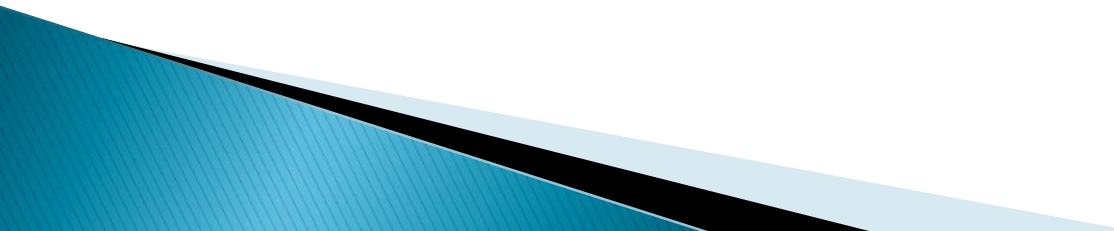
What is Decat?

**Decat = Child Welfare
Decategorization Project**

*Decat is also denoted as DCAT, specifically when referenced in the contracting and/or funding process



What is Decat?

- ▶ Decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding is an initiative intended to establish systems of delivering human services based upon client needs to replace systems based upon a multitude of categorical funding programs and funding sources, each with different service definitions and eligibility requirements.
 - ▶ This initiative effectively “decategorizes” funding sources so that they may be more effectively utilized to meet the needs of the local community
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Purpose of Decat

- ▶ The Child Welfare Decategorization Project is an effort to significantly change the child welfare system by re-directing child welfare and juvenile justice funding to services that are:
 - Needs based
 - Family focused
 - Easily accessible
 - More intensive
 - Less restrictive
- ▶ This goal of this effort is to provide cost effective services that reduce the use of approaches that rely on institutional, out-of-home, and out-of-community care.

Creation of Decat

- ▶ The Child Welfare Decategorization Program was authorized by the Iowa General Assembly in 1987 as an initiative designed to deliver more effective services to children and families.
- ▶ The legal basis for Decategorization is outlined in Iowa Code Section 232.188, which was initially enacted in 1993 and substantially modified by the 2005 Iowa General Assembly.


Creation of Decat

The decategorization initiative was developed in response to:

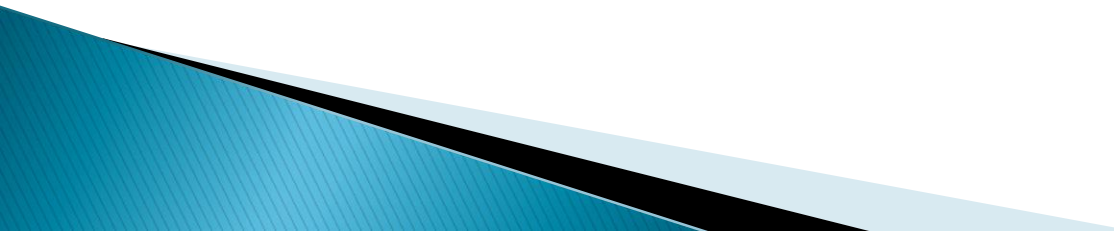
- ▶ The growing number of children going into foster care
- ▶ The need to increase emphasis on early intervention and prevention services
- ▶ Community values which support the reality that most families, even dysfunctional ones, do a better job of raising children than the government
- ▶ The recognition that local jurisdictions are much more in touch with the needs of their children and families and have the capability to respond quicker and more appropriately than the state bureaucracy

Goals of Decat


The goals of the 1987 legislation were to:

- ▶ Enhance the array of services available to clients to better meet their needs
 - ▶ Overcome some of the problems and barriers to serving clients which traditional categorical funding streams presented
 - ▶ Accomplish major system changes without spending more than would have been spent in the former categorical system
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Organization of Decat

- ▶ Decategorization Projects are organized by county or clusters of counties.
 - ▶ Today there are 40 Decategorization Projects across the state of Iowa, covering all 99 counties.
 - ▶ Creston Cluster – Adair, Adams, & Union
 - ▶ Leon Cluster – Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold, & Wayne
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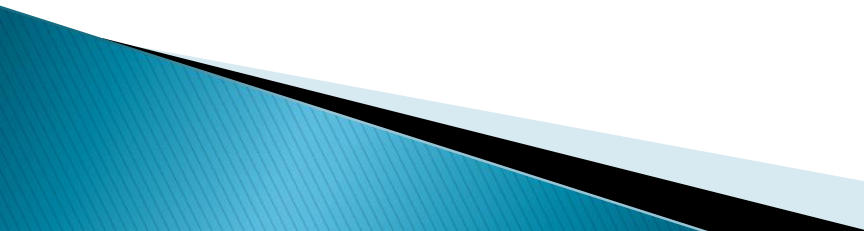
Decat Project Cluster

- ▶ The county or counties that have entered into a decategorization agreement to implement a decategorization initiative in the county or multi-county area covered by the agreement.
 - ▶ Each Decategorization Project is directed by a Governance Board that must include representatives of administrators of the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, and representatives designated by county government within the affected county or counties.
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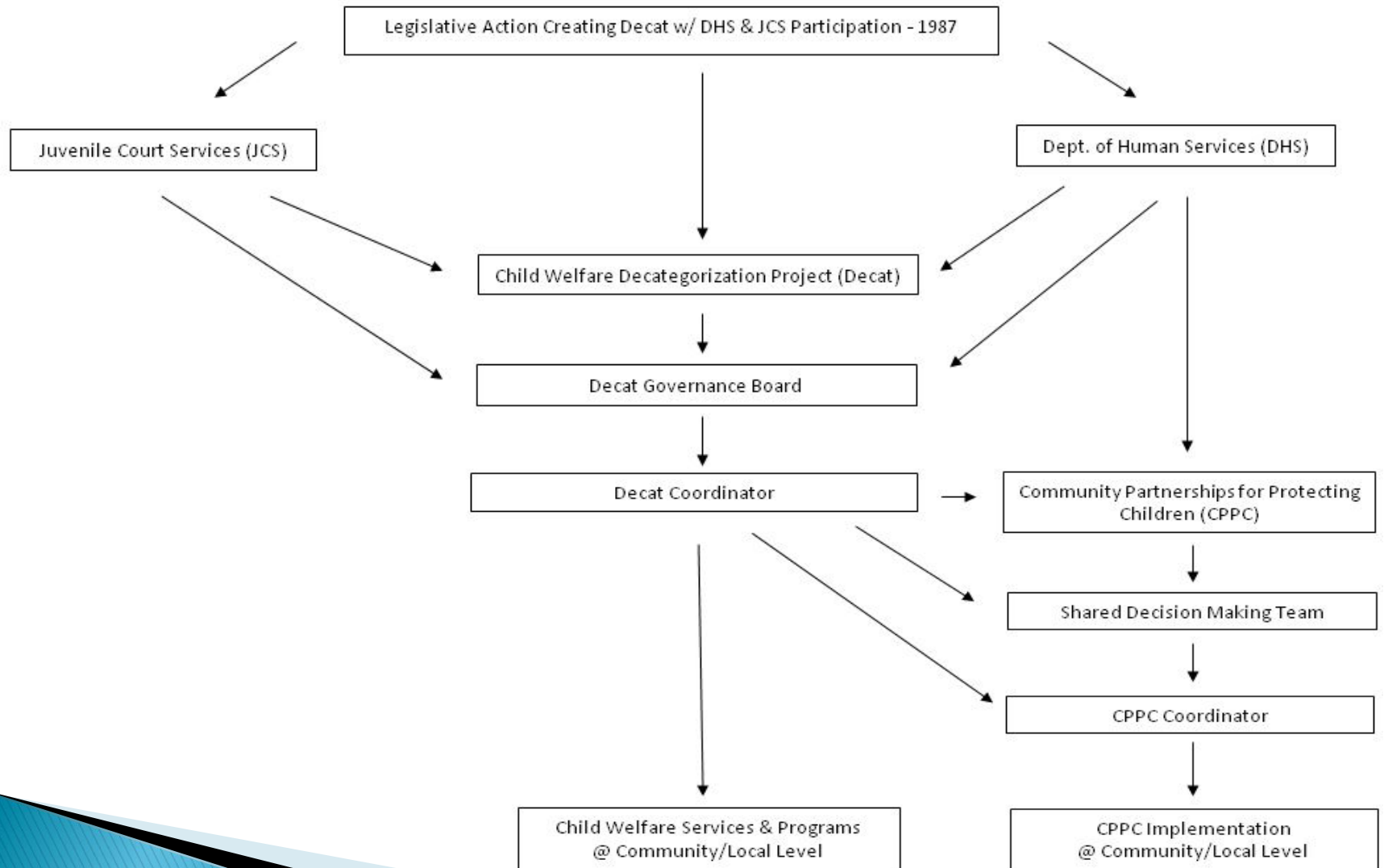
Decat Governance Board

- ▶ The group that enters into and implements a decategorization project agreement.
- ▶ Each Decategorization Governance Board shall have the following responsibilities:
 - Community Planning
 - Establish & Follow Board Operation Procedures
 - Coordination with Department and Juvenile Court Services Administrators
 - Fiscal Responsibility & Authority
 - Reporting – October 1st and December 1st

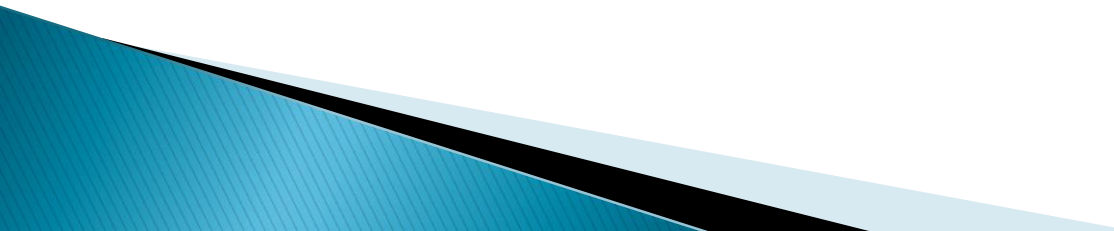
Decat Steering Committee

- ▶ A local steering committee, or advisory board, helps guide funding and programming decisions.
 - ▶ The local steering committee is comprised of representatives from each county in the cluster. In the Creston and Leon Clusters the steering committee also serves as the CPPC Shared Decision Making Team.
 - ▶ These representatives have a vested interest in their community and provide the Decat Governance Board with a comprehensive overview of the needs of children and families in their respective communities.
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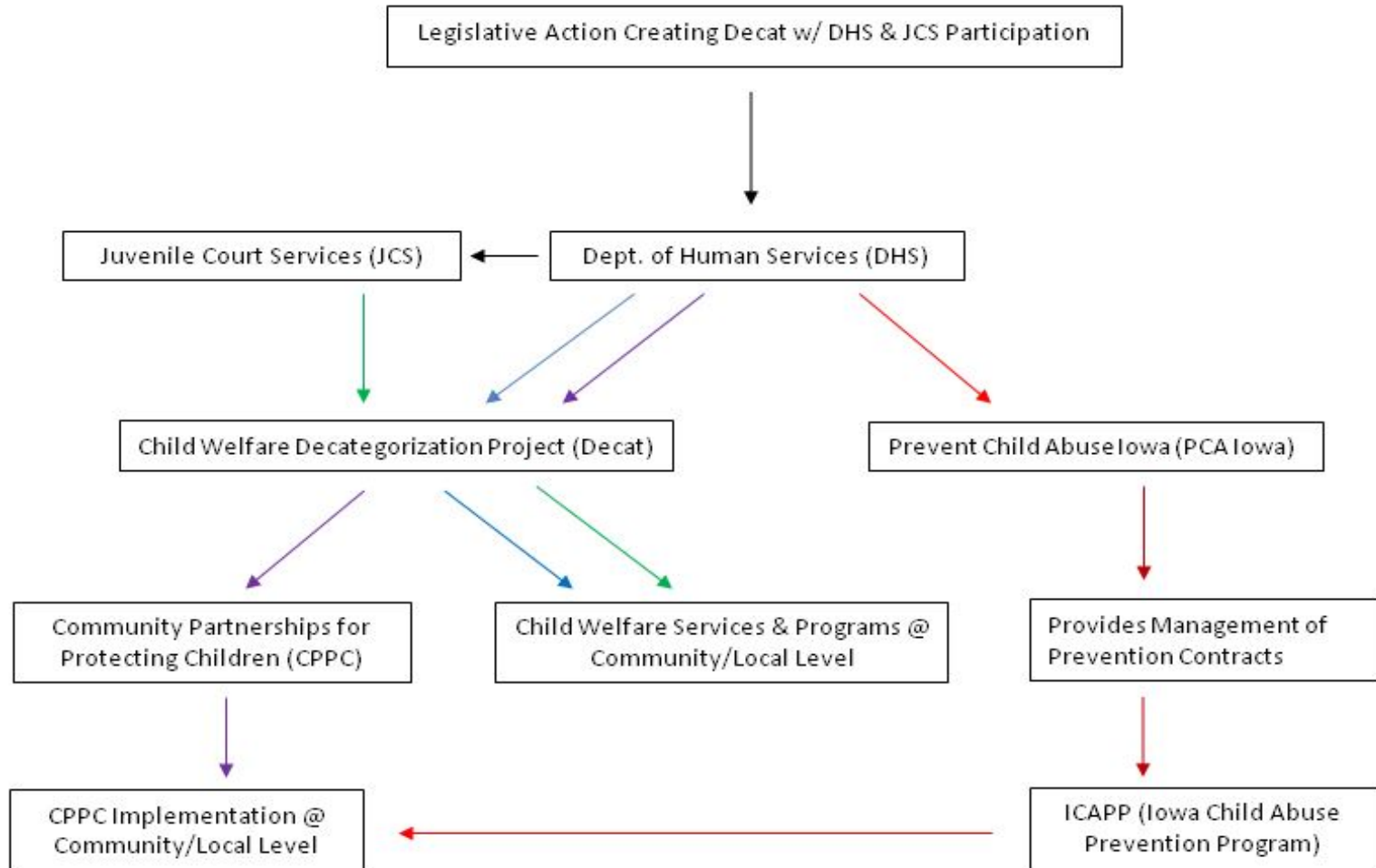
Decat Hierarchal Overview



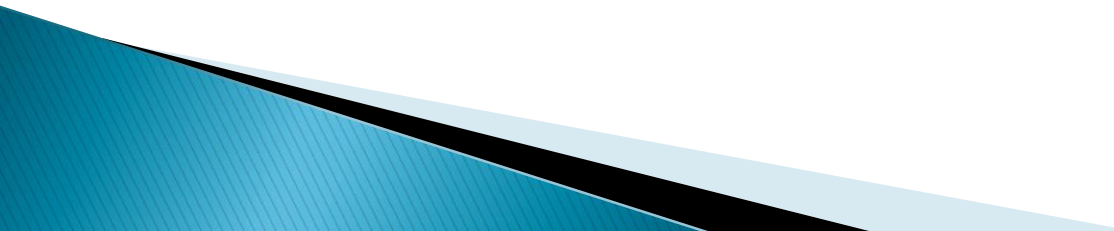
Decat Funding

- ▶ Decategorization was designed to be a process that combines the individual state appropriations for child welfare services into a single fund, or funding pool, to encourage the development of services that better meet the needs of youth and families by allowing the local county(s) flexibility in how these funds are used.
 - ▶ This flexibility allows communities to focus on services that fill identified gaps in funding in order to best meet the needs of the families that live in those communities.
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Decat Funding Flow Chart



Administration of Funds

- ▶ The Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Decatur Governance Board contracts with various providers to administer Decatur funds.
 - ▶ Some of the type of providers include:
 - Government Entities
 - Non-profit Agencies/Organizations
 - Multi-County Agencies
 - Local County Agencies
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Roles in Contracting

- ▶ Contract Owner – the DHS employee or executive who is principally responsible for the program or project = DHS Service Area Manager
 - ▶ Contract Manager – the DHS employee that provides general management of the contract, performs monitoring and review functions (unless otherwise designated), receives notices and other communications about the contract, and is accountable to the Contract Owner = DHS Community Liaison
 - ▶ Contract Monitor – the person designated by the Contract Manager to perform monitoring and review functions as they relate to contract performance and financial oversight, as well as provide day-to-day administration of the programs = Decat Coordinator
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Current Contracts

- ▶ Decat Coordination – CIJDC
 - Provide coordination of ongoing and expanded development and implementation of the Child Welfare Decategorization Project in the Creston and Leon Clusters.
 - Build & maintain effective working relationships with DHS, JCS, and contract services provider staff & other community partners in both the public and private sectors.
 - Collaborate with community stakeholders to help fill gaps in services for children and their families.

Current Contracts

- ▶ Family Assistance – Union County
 - To provide services and activities to DHS eligible families for children who have been removed or who may be removed and placed in relative placement, foster care, a child care setting, etc. in order to facilitate the reunification, stability, and/or safety of the child appropriately.
 - Identify gaps in funding when traditional child welfare dollars are not allowed, not available, or when community resources have been exhausted.

Current Contracts

- ▶ Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Coordination (CPPC) – CIJDC
 - Provide coordination of ongoing and expanded development and implementation of the CPPC Initiative in the Creston and Leon Clusters with the goal of preventing/reducing child abuse.
 - Ensure that ongoing development involves the four strategies of CPPC: Shared Decision Making, Individual Course of Action, Policy and Practice Change and Neighborhood Networking.
 - Effectively utilize community resources in order to enhance community awareness of the CPPC Initiative.

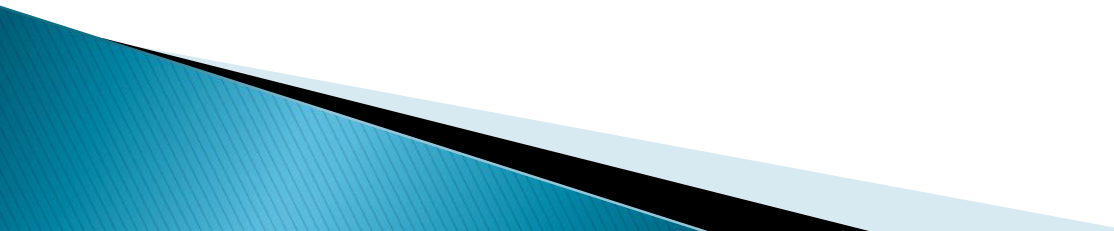
Current Contracts

- ▶ Functional Family Therapy – Orchard Place
 - Provide an outcome-driven prevention/intervention program for youth ages 10–18 who have demonstrated a range of maladaptive, acting out behaviors, and related areas of concern.
 - Identify and serve youth who are at risk for and/or presenting with delinquency, violence, substance abuse, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, or disruptive behaviors disorder.

Current Contracts

- ▶ Trauma Informed Services for Youth in Detention – CIJDC
 - Provide research-based Trauma-Informed therapy and services including skill building and screening for ACEs for youth in the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center.
 - Identify and serve youth who are at risk for and/or have experienced trauma, human trafficking, or suicidal ideations.

Other Programs / Projects

- ▶ Youth Development Projects
 - Projects that meet an identified need and demonstrate a positive change in behaviors, knowledge, skills, status, and/or level of functioning among their participants/target audience.
 - Programs and services that meet an identified need/goal and are generally solicited through a RFP, Request for Proposal, process when there are unallocated funds available
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Jocelyn Blazek Decat Coordinator

Serving
Adair, Adams, & Union
Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold, & Wayne Counties

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