

## IOWA'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OF CARE

Beginning in July, we will have the capability to fundamentally answer the question: "Are DHS/JCS children's social and emotional well-being increasing when involved in out-of-home placement?" The ability to answer this question will be made possible by the Total Outcome Package (TOP) assessment. Most of our current assessments help us understand why kids are there, where kids are, and how long they've been there, but do not help us assess our children's well-being over time or how well-being is impacted by specific providers. Using this common measurement will increase our ability to share knowledge and make critical decisions about services and care.

**This Connection highlights some additional ways the TOP tool will enhance our work. Training on the TOP assessment will be coming soon to a Service Area near you!**

