

WHERE IS THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM?

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THE RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **ONE:**
 - **SURVEYED 46 LAWYERS REPRESENTING CHILDREN IN CPS**
 - **LOOKED AT THE PARENTING CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (PCA) AS A TOOL FOR CREATING VOICE FOR CHILDREN**
- **TWO**
 - **LOOKING AT PRACTICE ERRORS RELATED TO DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN CPS**



RESEARCH PROJECT ONE

LOOKED AT PCA'S

- **THREE MAJOR QUESTIONS PCA MUST ADDRESS**
 - **WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD THAT MUST BE MET?**
 - **THE VOICE OF THE CHILD BELONGS HERE**
 - **CAN THIS PARENT BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS CHILD?**
 - **IF NOT, CAN ANYTHING BE DONE?**



NEED FOR A CHILD FOCUSED SYSTEM

DANIEL PELKA



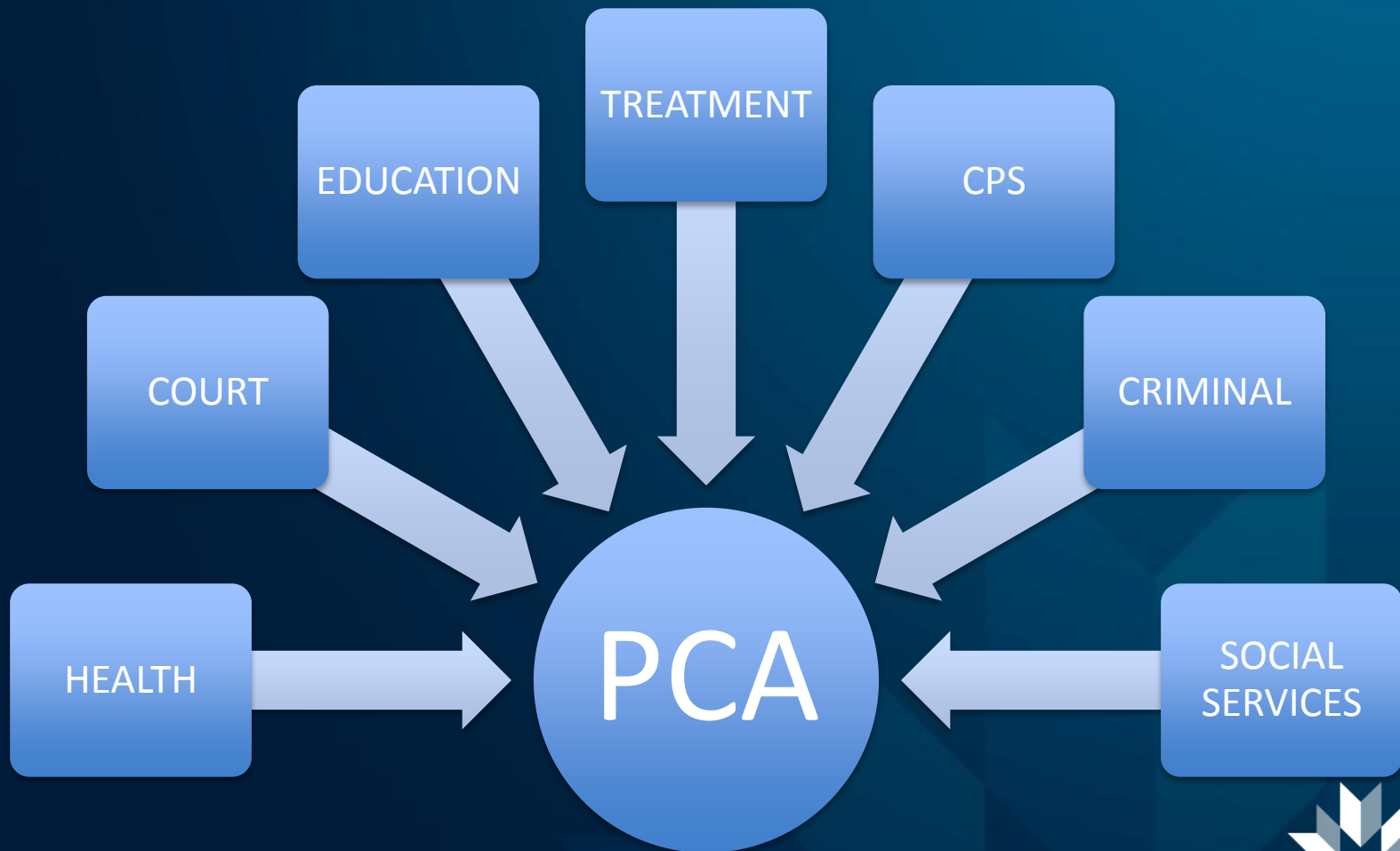
JEFFREY BALDWIN



PCA'S POWER

- INFLUENCES THE CPS CASE PLAN
- SEEN AS HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL IN THE COURT
- ARE OFTEN SEEN BY PARENTS AS DECISION MAKING

PCA'S LINK SYSTEMS TO FOCUS ON WHAT IS NEEDED



ROLE OF AHS

- **BOTH THE VELASQUEZ AND BABY ANNIE INQUIRIES INDICATED THAT THERE NEEDED TO BE GREATER CONNECTION BETWEEN AHS AND CPS**
 - **BY DEFINITION, THIS SHOULD INCLUDE AGENCIES WORKING ON BEHALF OF CPS**



BABY ANNIE REPORT

- “...a lack of coordination and information sharing between professionals and agencies hampered the ability of service providers to assess risk to Annie and effectively support her and her family. Better information sharing and a multi-service response would have been beneficial” (p.29).



WHAT DID THE LAWYERS TELL US?

- CHILDREN'S VOICES ARE NOT BEING HEARD EVEN THOUGH THE CHILD'S NEEDS WERE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT
- CHILD'S VIEWS ARE NOT BEING INCLUDED
- THE LEAST DETRIMENTAL ALTERNATIVE FOR THE CHILD IS OFTEN NOT CONSIDERED

WHAT DID THE LAWYERS TELL US?

- THE ABILITY OF THE PARENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD OFTEN NOT A PRIORITY IN REPORTS
- CHILDREN ARE OFTEN NOT SEEN, INTERVIEWED OR OBSERVED



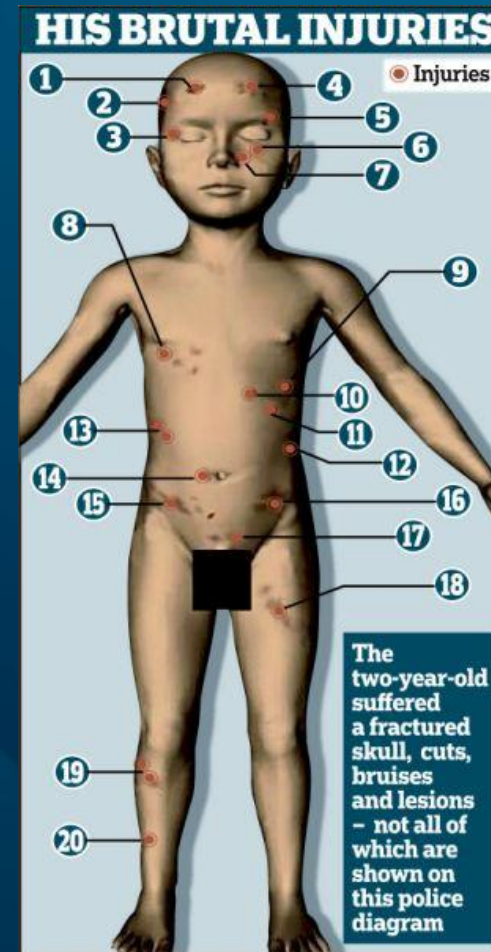
WHAT DID THE LAWYERS TELL US?

- THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF
 - EACH CHILD
 - CHILDREN WITH PHYSICAL AND/OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
 - FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL NEEDS
 - IMMIGRANT CULTURAL NEEDS
 - NOT GIVEN PRIORITY



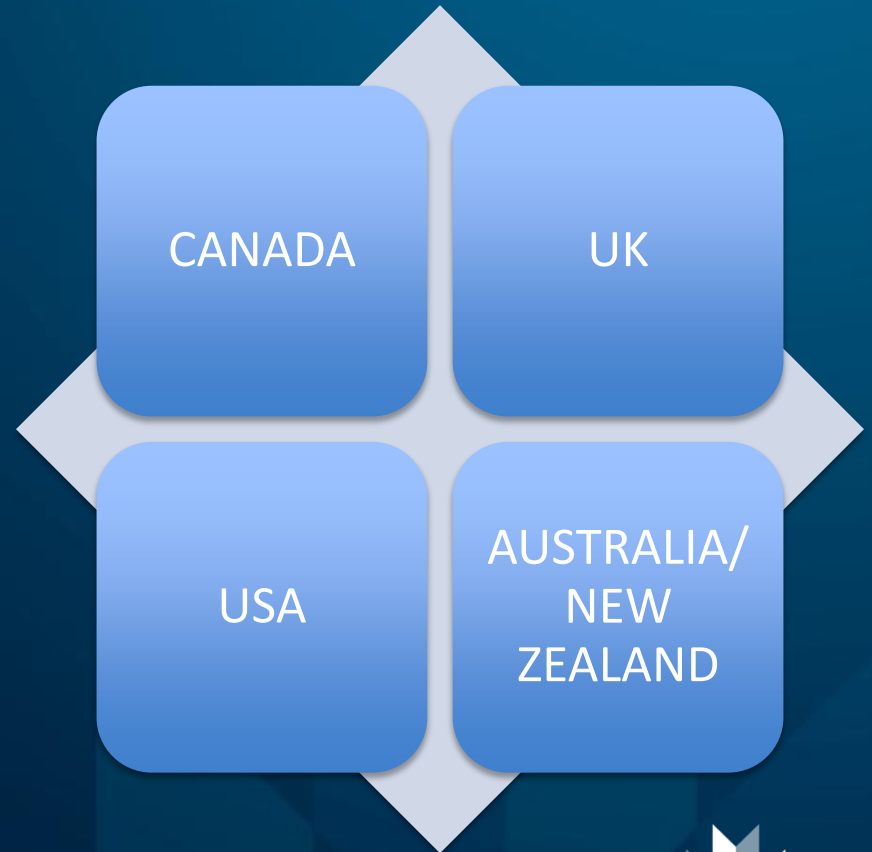
HOW CAN THE CHILD'S VOICE BE HEARD?

- WHO KNOWS THE CHILD?
 - FAMILY
 - TEACHERS
 - NURSES
 - SOCIAL WORKERS
 - DOCTORS
 - THERAPISTS



CHILD DEATH RESEARCH PROJECT IS SHOWING

- POOR CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SYSTEMS
- INFORMATION BARRIERS
- UNWILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED
- CHILD NOT SEEN
 - BABY ANNIE ALBERTA



THE CHILD'S VOICE

PHOENIX SINCLAIR

- CAN BE HEARD THROUGH
 - YOUR RECORDS
 - OBSERVATIONS
 - DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CHILD

