

11/2/2020 World Café hosted by Children's Home Society:

Court and Child Serving System Partners,

Despite multiple efforts and good intentions, as a child serving system, we are not achieving benchmarks related to timely reunification of children with their biological parents and have not been able to impact these numbers in a positive way. To achieve better outcomes for children and families, we must come together to develop more effective solutions.

You are all invited to attend our first Buncombe County Court Partnership World Café on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:30 to 2:00 hosted and facilitated by a neutral community partner, Children's Home Society. For this first Café, we will focus on how, as a system, we can collectively improve in safely reunifying children with their biological parents in a timely manner.

As we all know, the best place for children to be is with their parents when their parent or parents can provide a safe environment free of ongoing maltreatment. We also know parents and their children face MANY barriers when working toward reunification. As a system, we MUST creatively identify opportunities to improve our functioning. The World Café is an opportunity for us to come together, share power, allow all voices to be heard, identify strengths and gaps and build a stronger pathway to reunification.

In Fiscal Year 2019, 50 children (28% of exiting children) were reunified with one or more of their biological parents.

In Fiscal Year 2020, 39 children (21% of exiting children) were reunified with one or more of their biological parents.

Our goal is to create a system where 40% of exiting children are reunified with one or more of their biological parents, ideally within the established 12 month timeframe.

To learn more about the World Café methodology including the history and research behind it, the impact it has had around the world, as well as, the specific design principles involved in the model, you can visit <http://www.theworldcafe.com/>.

The questions we asked in the World Café were:

We focused a lot of our time today on ensuring the verbiage of the questions hits the mark for the experience we are collectively trying to create. We offer the following questions:

1. (What does it look like?) – Think about a family that overcame obstacles and successfully reunified with their children. What conditions within the child serving system led to that reunification?
2. (Mindset) – What do parents have to do after they have messed up to make their home safe enough for their kids to return.
3. (Strategies) – What programs, trainings and opportunities would wrap around families to support the change needed to have kids return to their parents?