



## **Regular Board Meeting September 26, 2024**

**Donzella Administration Building – 1275 Lakeside Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44114  
and broadcasted live via Zoom – 5:30 pm**

### **1. Regular Meeting Opening**

#### **A. Convene**

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Scheidt at 5:35pm.

#### **B. Roll Call**

Members present: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson (Zoom), Steven Licciardi, Stephen Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Member absent: Alaina McCruel

### **2. Minutes**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities held August 22, 2024, a copy of which is made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, be accepted as directed by the President, without objection, and approved as published.

Motion by Lisa Hunt, second by Steve Licciardi.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

### **3. Donations**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities gratefully accepts nine equipment donations of unspecified value to the OT/PT Lending Library.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Allison Frazier.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

### **4. Financial Statements**

RESOLVED, that the Operating Fund Statement and the Statements of Revenue and Expenditures - Planned and Actual for the year-to-date period ending August 31, 2024, be accepted and filed for audit; the payment of vouchers for the period August 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024 be ratified; and that all statements and voucher summaries are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs gave a summary of the financial statements noting significant variances. Regarding revenue, we are expecting a small levy payment for the remainder of the year. Community Partner Reimbursements were also higher than budgeted for this month since we received some payments from the prior year and Community Partners have been generating increased reimbursement payments for the people we serve in both systems. Regarding Waiver Match Obligation expenditures, we are currently at 16% of our YTD goal, with a projection of \$73 million. In Other Locally Funded expenditures, we are well below budget and will remain below budget for the rest of the year. In the end we are coming it at less than 50% of what was budgeted due to restructuring and reduced expenses for our IST program. As for Administrative Expenditures, buildings & grounds and property & equipment are expected to come in on budget. Treasurer's fees will come in below budget as we were reimbursed for past overpaid fees.

## 5. Announcements

President, Steve Scheidt turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Amber Gibbs who gave the following announcements:

- Cuyahoga DD sponsored a Paralympics Watch Party at Green Road Center on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The party was attended by approximately 40 people who we serve, and several staff members volunteered to help host the event in our beautiful, new Green Road cafeteria space.
- DSP Appreciation Week was held from September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup> and Cuyahoga DD's Provider Support Department celebrated with many of our provider agencies providing their DSP staff with tee shirts that read "CHAMPION for ALL". We also held an awards luncheon at Lakeside to honor outstanding DSP professionals, who were nominated for this honor.
- Superintendent Gibbs met with Senator Matt Dolan on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Lakeside. Gina Kerman from Rose-Mary CLE also attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to thank Senator Dolan for his support in the last budget cycle and to keep Cuyahoga DD on his radar for ongoing support for the people we serve. Senator Dolan was given our Annual Report, and he was impressed with our work with the RISE program at CSU. He was very excited to see our universal changing table and to hear about how many universal changing tables are being installed throughout Cuyahoga County.
- Lori Mago and several members of her team represented Cuyahoga DD at the NEO Aging and Disability Summit on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Green Road Center mural painting is now completed. Isaiah Williams was the artist and under his guidance a team of volunteers helped make his vision a reality. The mural is in the gym at Green Road Center and the floors of the gym are in the process of being replaced. An official unveiling of the mural is forthcoming and will include a plaque with the names of all the artists who contributed to the project.
- Everyone had until October 1<sup>st</sup> to support Cleveland's Special Olympics USA Games bid. The public was encouraged to sign the online pledge supporting this bid which is for the 2030 Special Olympics USA Games. The games are projected to bring a potential \$70 million to Cleveland.
- Superintendent Gibbs introduced Mike Lively, Cuyahoga DD's new Director of IT, to the Board of Directors. He is the former Director of IT for the RTA.

## 6. Discussion Topic: *Early Intervention*

Lori Mago (Director of Childrens Services and Assisive Technology), Erin Wladyka (Early Intervention Manger), Eric Yehle (Developmental Specialist) and Marion Thompson (Speech Language Pathologist) gave the presentation about the functions and roles Cuyahoga DD utilizes to assist DD clients via our Early Intervention Team. Their presentation slides are attached to these minutes as a permanent part of the record of this meeting.

## **7. Status Reports**

Superintendent Gibbs noted that as of August Cuyahoga DD's Family Support enrollment is at 4,927 people, which represents a significant increase over the past few years' enrollment numbers. Additionally, at the end of August we served 12,303 people which also demonstrated significant growth.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Purchase and Renovation of Youth Respite Replacement Home**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to make payments not to exceed \$650,000 to NEON (North East Ohio Network) between October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, for the purchase and renovation of one house to replace the current youth respite home; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Steven Licciardi, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs explained that while the expenditure looks high, there is real value in the property when you look at the money we'll be getting back from the State in terms of capital funds for purchase and renovation. We would also be selling the current home, appraised at \$368,000. It was noted that the house has never been an ideal place due to accessibility issues and the proximity to neighbors. The new property will strictly be for respite for kids. We want to send the money to our C.O.G., NEON, so that they can act quickly on the purchase without having to be delayed by our Board cycle, potentially resulting in missing out on this opportunity.

### **B. Final Payment for Creol Consulting**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to approve a payment to Creol Consulting of Bethesda, Maryland for the period August 1, 2024, to October 31, 2024, for a total sum not to exceed \$15,060; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Lisa Hunt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs explained that Creol Consulting was the support company we used for our Oracle financial software. We have transitioned away from Creol towards relying on internal support. When we have a situation that we cannot address on our own, we use an alternate vendor. To complete the contract with Creol, we owe one final payment of \$16,060.

### **C. Purchase of Computer Hardware from CDW Government**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to purchase laptop computers and associated peripherals from CDW Government, LLC for a total sum not to exceed \$95,500.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Steven Licciardi.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, , Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs provided the context that Cuyahoga DD decided to be on a three-year refresh cycle with our computers due to the heavy use of our computers by our staff. We have not purchased any computers this year, keeping with that cycle. This expenditure is a part of a cooperative purchasing program which allows us to access the software and hardware systems that are used by the state and by our internal systems.

Cynthia Schulz questioned about the consequences of putting this off for a year. Superintendent Gibbs acknowledged that no organization loves to spend its money like this, but it is essential because our staff is so reliant on our computers to do their work. Dr. Gibbs also noted that we have money in our budget earmarked for moving forward with this.

**D. Purchase of Cisco Phone Hosting Services and Equipment from TEC Communications**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to purchase phone telecom/hosting services and equipment from TEC Communications of Cleveland, Ohio for the period October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027 for a sum not to exceed \$200,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Mozelle Jackson, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs provided the context that Cuyahoga DD's phone system used to be hosted by the County, which is no longer an option for us. We need our own telecom hosting services and the bid we obtained from TEC Communications offered the best features at the lowest cost. The new system will allow us to eliminate desk phones, with a few noted exceptions like in conference rooms, mail rooms and for a few employees. The hosting system is necessary to streamline our communication channels, so that our main switchboard can transfer calls to employee cell phones as well as provide cloud-based voicemail back-ups, etc. The new system represents a cost saving of \$17,000 in the first year and then \$7,000 in each of the following two years.

Alison Frazier asked for clarification on the process of deciding on TEC Communications. Director of IT, Mike Lively, weighed in noting that this was the best solution for the staff we have and the business we run. Superintendent Gibbs noted that our need for a switchboard system with the capability to transfer calls to cell phones was an essential deciding factor. A few of the other companies we explored were not able to address that need. There are other features that we desired, like the ability to keep desk phone numbers the same as the cell phone numbers, the automatic back-up recording feature, the ability to send voicemails via email, and the ability for calls transferred to cell phones to return to the switchboard by dialing zero.

**E. Solar Panel Purchase and Installation for Michael A. Donzella Administration Building**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to pay Yellowlite Inc., located at 1925 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, for the design, supply, installation, and training of a solar panel system located on the roof of the Michael A. Donzella Administration Building, for an amount not to exceed \$338,000; and, BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED: that the Superintendent is authorized to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Steven Licciardi, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt

Nay: Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs explained that the project to install solar panels at 1275 Lakeside Avenue is within our current budget. The initial cost is \$338,000, but the rebates and the initial incentives that will be applied will lower that cost to \$202,000. We also will have an ongoing expected savings of 30% per year, or \$25,000, so the solar panels will pay for themselves within eight years. The panels are expected to function at a high-level for twenty years, and the savings will continue even after that (though at a lesser rate). Ultimately this is cost effective and will make Cuyahoga DD greener and more sustainable.

The Board opened the discussion, raising some questions about the structural integrity of our roof, the timing of the project and alternative ways to pay for this project. Director of Operations, Rob Goe, noted that a roof inspection with the solar panel company was passed and they have assessed that our roof is strong enough to support the panels for 20 years. Our roof is 10 years old on a 15-year warranty. He also noted that the solar panels do not get attached to the roof—it is a weighted system which gives us the ability to move the panels around if roof maintenance is needed. On the importance of doing the panels now, he explained that in his conversations with the County’s Facilities Department, he learned about the County’s drive for greener, sustainable energy solutions. Superintendent Gibbs explained that we have room for this in our 2024 budget, but we also have a capital Reserve Fund specifically for projects involving capital improvements and repairs, for which this project would qualify. If we need a Board item next month to pull the cost over from the capital fund, she will be glad to do that. The Board agreed that we would like that to occur. Superintendent Gibbs clarified that we are voting on the expenditure this month and next month we will be voting on a transfer of funds from our capital fund to our Operations budget.

**F Concrete Work at Green Road, Big Creek, and Operations Buildings**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to pay Cemco Construction, located at 24971 Rockwell Drive Euclid, Ohio, for concrete work at Green Road, Big Creek, and Operations Building sites for an amount not to exceed \$248,552; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Steven Licciardi, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz

Superintendent Gibbs explained that this project includes excavating and removing old concrete then pouring new concrete. This was the lowest bid we received to replace and expand concrete areas that are causing potential hazards due to erosion as well as creating storage of additional landscaping vehicles.

Lisa Hunt inquired if this was another project that could be paid out of the capital fund. Superintendent Gibbs replied that we do have this amount in our budget, so we don't need to use capital funds, but it is a possibility. What utilizing the capital fund would mean is that when Dr. Gibbs approaches the Board in November for an increase in her spending authority (because we are overspending due to match) we will adjust the number we will ask this Board for.

Allison Frazier questioned whether asphalt had been considered as it costs about half the price of concrete. She also asked if we expect to keep all three buildings long-term. Superintendent Gibbs and Rob Goe affirmed that we are keeping the three buildings. Rob proceeded to explain that we did consider the option for asphalt but found that the amount of maintenance it would need over time was undesirable. It's important to note that many of these areas we are trying to replace and entrances and pathways to buildings. We are going for a more permanent fix as these areas are highly trafficked by wheelchairs, etc. Rob further explained that asphalt is fine for parking lots, but less so for sidewalks. Allison agreed that this explanation made a lot of sense.

Mozelle Jackson was curious if this project will be completed by the end of the year. Rob stated that it will be completed, and that the ideal condition for pouring and curing concrete is having weather in the 50 to 60-degrees range.

**9. Comments from the Floor**

There were no comments from the floor.

**10. Adjournment**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby adjourns.

Motion by Lisa Hunt, second by Steven Licciardi.


Final Resolution: Motion Approved

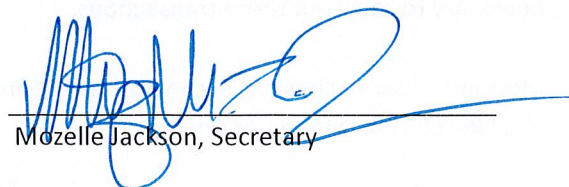
Aye: Allison Frazier, Cynthia Schulz, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Steven Licciardi, Steve Scheidt

Time adjourned: 7:03pm.

**Next Meeting** - October 24, 2024, Budget Hearing at 5:30 pm and regular meeting at 6:30 pm, at the Donzella Administration Building, 1275 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114 and broadcast via Zoom. Zoom link will be shared on the Cuyahoga DD website at [cuyahogadd.org](http://cuyahogadd.org) at least three days prior to the meeting.

Certified by:

  
Stephen Scheidt, President

  
Mozelle Jackson, Secretary



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y  
**Board of Developmental Disabilities**

**Regular Board Meeting  
September 26, 2024**

M. A. Donzella Administration Building and via Zoom

**Stephen Scheidt**, Board President

**Allison Frazier**, Board Vice President

**Mozelle Jackson**, Board Secretary

Board Members: **Lisa Hunt, Steven Licciardi, Alaina McCruel, Cynthia Vrsansky Schulz**



# 9.5.24 Paralympics Watch Party at Green Road Center



CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
Board of Developmental Disabilities





9.8.24-9.14.24  
DSP  
Appreciation  
Week



CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
Board of Developmental Disabilities



9.17.24  
Meeting with  
Senator Matt  
Dolan



CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
Board of Developmental Disabilities



9.27.24

Cuyahoga DD  
Team Presenting at  
NEO Aging and  
Disability Summit



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y  
Board of Developmental Disabilities

**30 Years** Looking Back and Moving Forward

Register Now!

ENGAGE WITH EXHIBITORS  
VIRTUAL OPTION  
EARN UP TO 6.5 CEUS  
\$90 PROFESSIONALS  
\$30 RETIREES & STUDENTS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
**Dr. James Campbell**  
Director of the Geriatric Center,  
The MetroHealth System  
Professor of Family Medicine,  
Case Western Reserve University

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 | 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Cleveland Marriott East

northeast ohio  
**Aging & Disability**  
summit 2024

Presented By

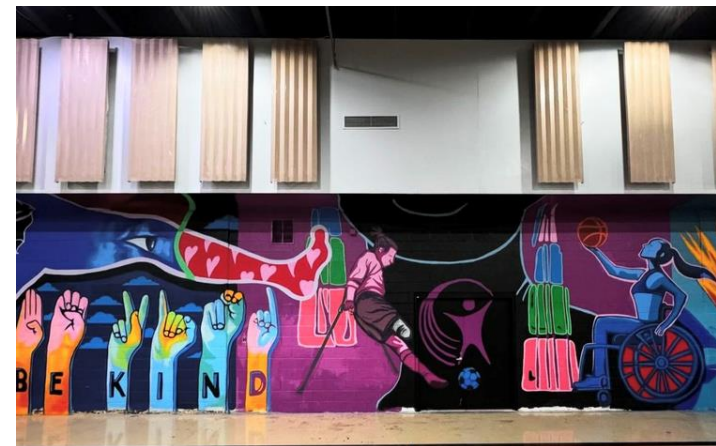
Cuyahoga County  
Division of Senior and Adult Services

MetroHealth  
Dedicated to Hope, Health, and Humanity

Western Reserve  
Area Agency on Aging



# Green Road Center Mural



CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
Board of Developmental Disabilities

Until 10/1  
Supporting  
Cleveland's Special  
Olympics USA  
Games Bid



CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
Board of Developmental Disabilities



**THE LAND OF**  
**HOPE | HEART | HEROES**

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**2030 Special Olympics USA Games**  
**Cleveland Host Committee**



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y  
Board of Developmental Disabilities

# Early Intervention

## September 2024 Board Presentation

Lori Mago – Director, ATCS

Erin Wladyka – Early Intervention Manager

Eric Yehle – Developmental Specialist

Marion Thompson – Speech Language Pathologist



# Early Intervention (EI) Basics

## Who

Eligible children under age 3 and their families

## What

System of services under state and federal rule; collaboration among community partners

## When

Frequency determined by the EI team which includes the family

## Where

Any environment natural to the child/family

## How

Primary Service Provider, Direct therapy, coaching approach, building parent competence and confidence

## Why

Critical developmental window; prevent future system involvement



- Cuyahoga DD
- Bright Beginnings
- Community Partners

# EI Services In Rule

<b>Assistive Technology Device</b>	Nursing	<b>Sign Language</b>
<b>Assistive Technology Service</b>	Nutrition	Social Work
Audiology	<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	<b>Special Instruction</b>
<b>Family Training</b>	<b>Physical Therapy</b>	<b>Speech Language Pathology</b>
Health Services	Psychological Services	Transportation
Medical Services	Service Coordination	Vision

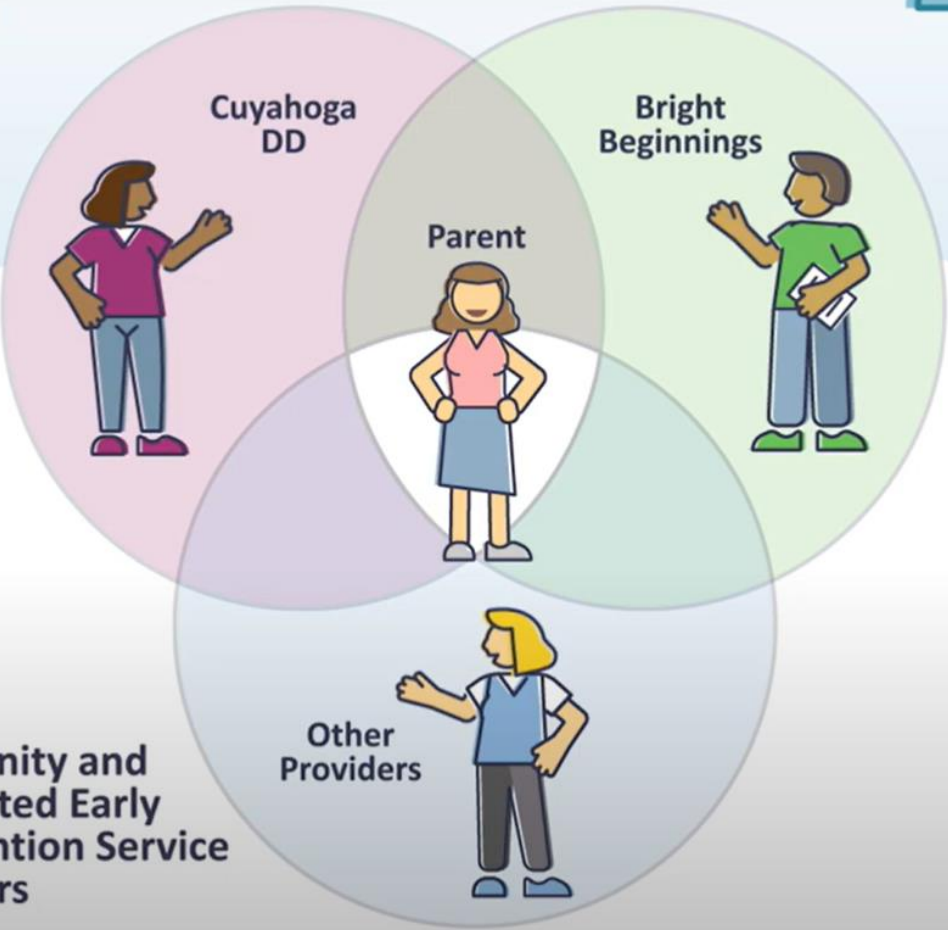




# Early Intervention Team

- Occupational Therapists
  - Physical Therapists
- Speech/Language Pathologists
- Developmental Specialists

- Service Coordinators
- Social Workers



- Community and Contracted Early Intervention Service Providers



# EI by the Numbers



Visits Annually: 35,000



Children Served Annually: 2,800



Staff and Management: 75



Regional Teams: 8



Average Age at Referral: 16 months



Average Length of Stay: 7.5 months



## THEN

## NOW

<b>Governing body</b>	Ohio Department of Health then DODD	Department of Children and Youth (DCY)
<b>Eligibility</b>	Based on delays; high risk	Qualifying diagnoses; standardized tools
<b>Family Assessment</b>	None	What is important to your family? Where do you spend time and with who? What do you enjoy doing? What do your individual routines look like? What would make them easier?
<b>Outcomes on IFSPs</b>	<p>“Johnny will stack five blocks.”</p> <p>“Noah will stop throwing his food on the floor during mealtime.”</p>	<p>“Johnny will look at me when I call his name when we are playing at the park.”</p> <p>“We want Noah to use words like ‘all done’ or ‘more’ to tell us what he wants during meals.”</p>
<b>Service Provision</b>	Classroom-based, medical model, little parent involvement. Multiple providers.	Home, grocery store, parks, day cares, restaurants. Parents are first and best teacher. Primary service Provider – direct therapy with strong coaching component



# How do we know EI works?

- Child Outcome Summary
  - Measures 3 Key areas: social emotional, knowledge/skills and taking action.
  - Are children within age expectations at exit or did they show a substantial rate of growth?
- State/Federal targets = annual performance report
  - Targets set by DCY and reported to federal government (Office of Special Ed)
  - Measures child outcome areas above. Cuyahoga met or exceeded targets and state averages in all areas.

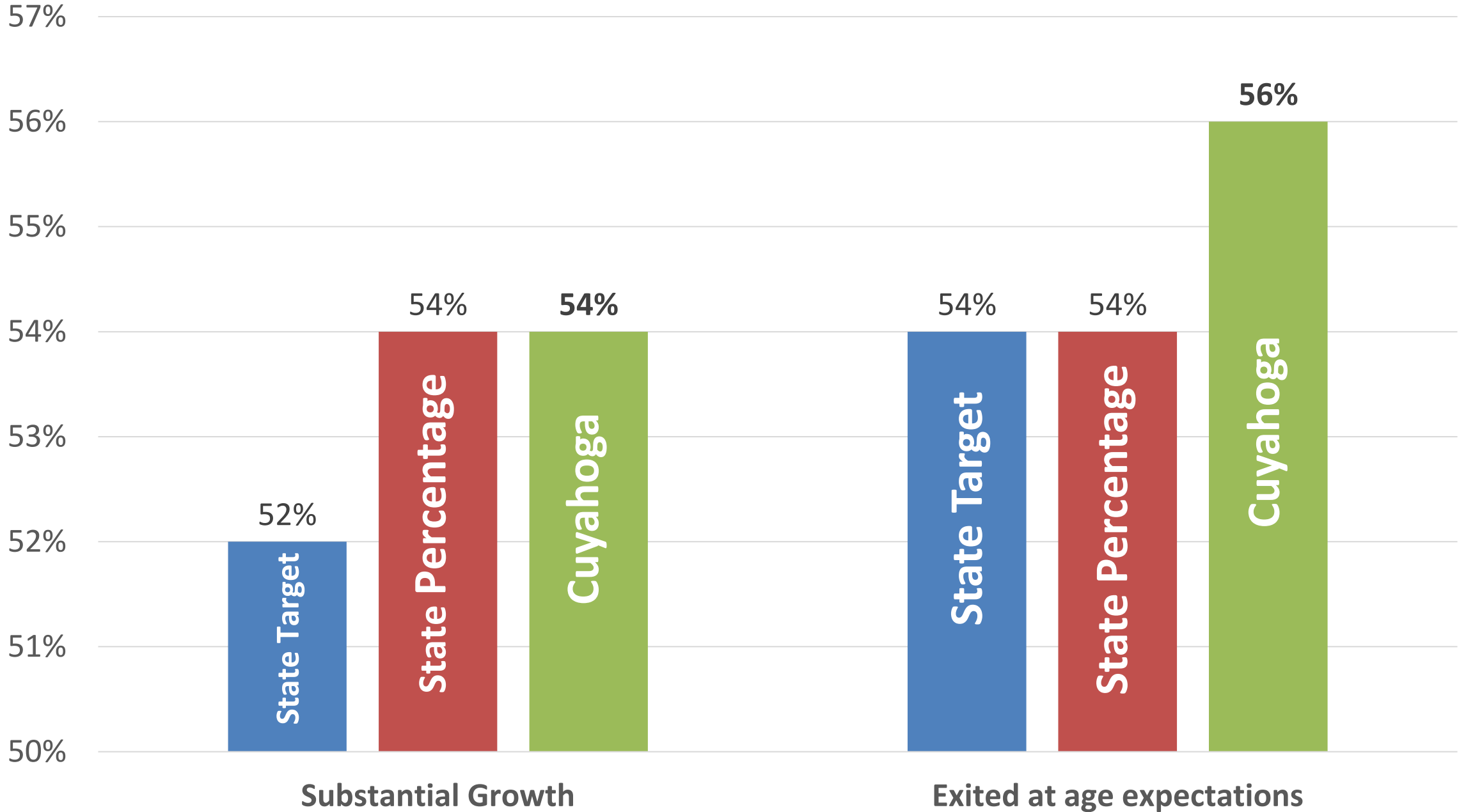
## Other outcome data

- 23% of children exiting EI in 2023 no longer needed services (based on exit data\*)

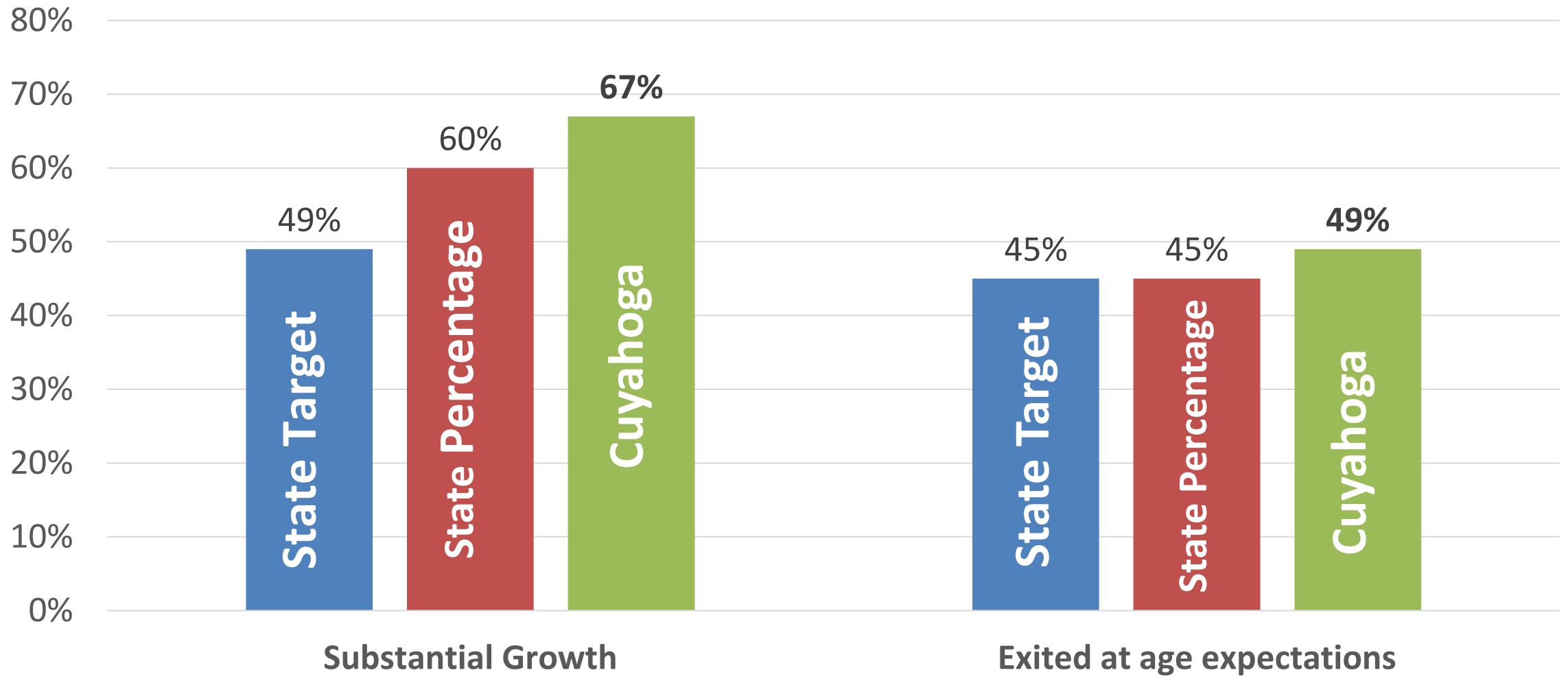




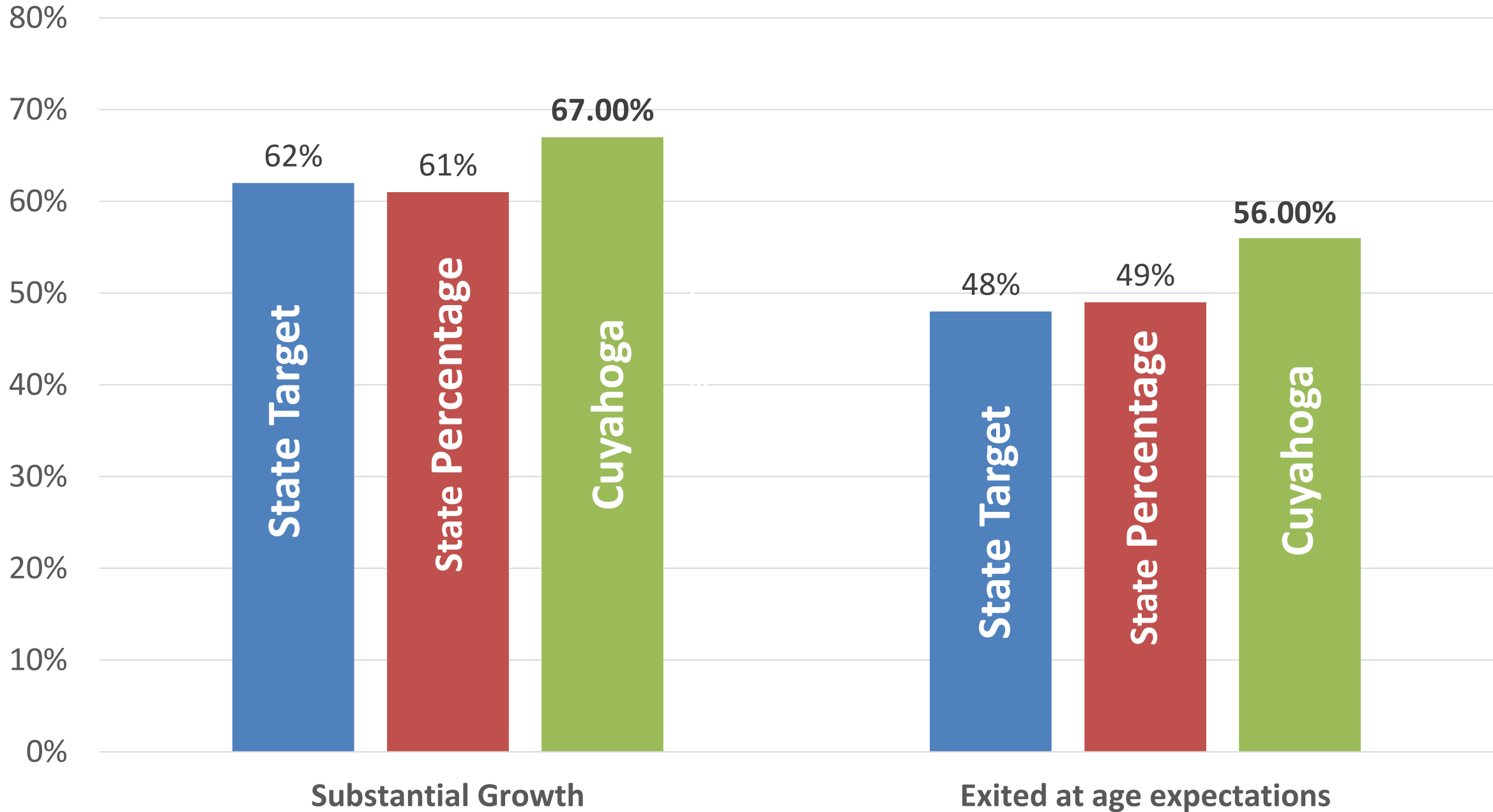
# Social Emotional



# Knowledge and Skills



# Taking Action to Meet Needs (Independence)



# Assessing, Planning and Service Delivery

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
  - Achievable in 6 months – realistic goals that reflect what is important to the family
  - Person centered planning
  - Family priorities vs. professional priorities – how we work through this
  - Culturally sensitive practices





# Averie's Story