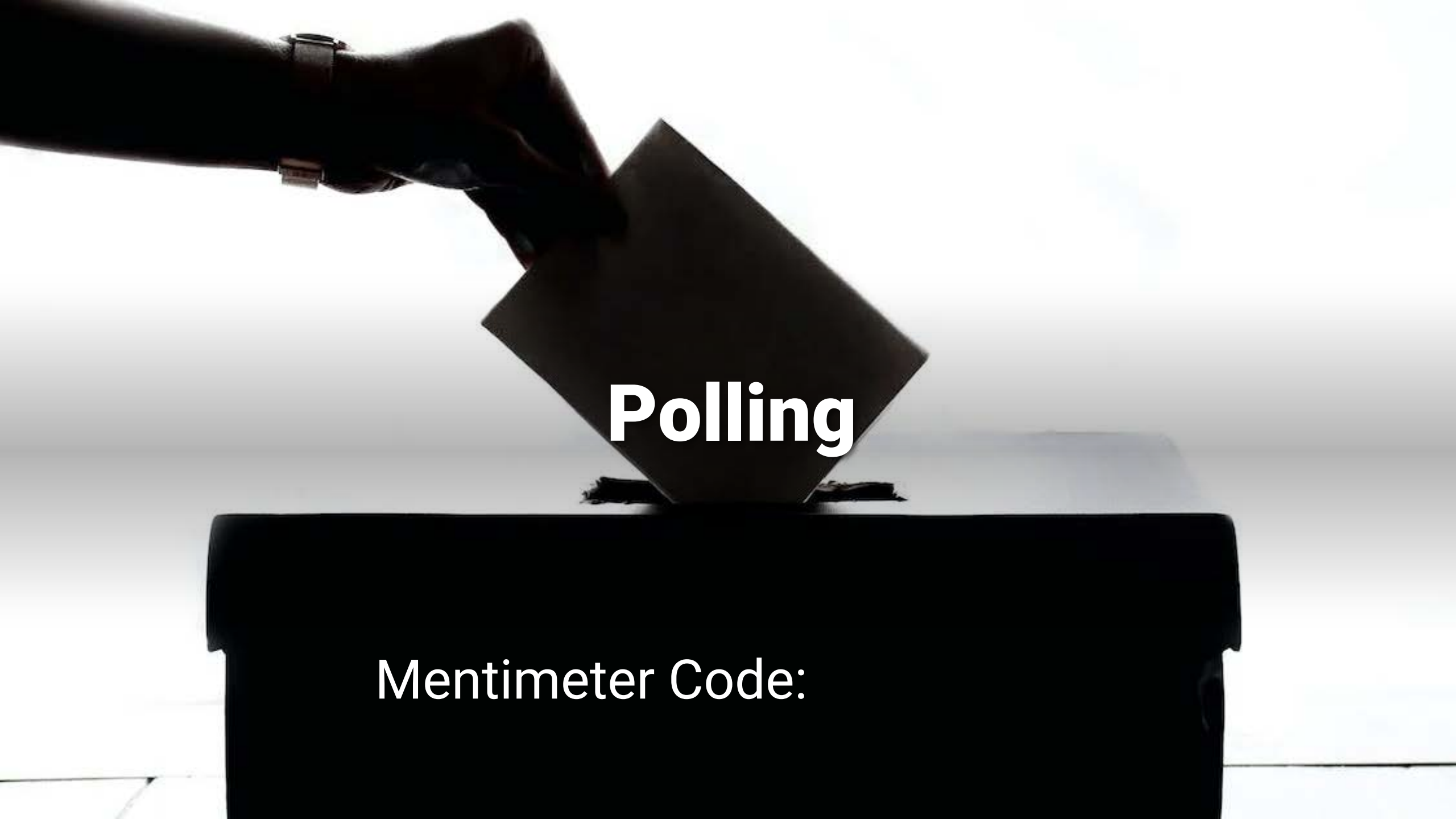
Safety Revisions Institute

September 15, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of Safety Revisions
- Review the work that is being lifted for next phase of revisions, seek feedback
- Lunch
- Danger threat data presentation
- Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) overview and recommendations



Polling

Mentimeter Code:

Things to keep in mind for today

This is preliminary work – do not change practice!

Things to keep in mind for today

Suspend what you know about safety and think about a desired future state

Things to keep in mind for today

Questions to consider:

- What is resonating?
- What is concerning?

Things to keep in mind for today

Survey Monkey

Families First

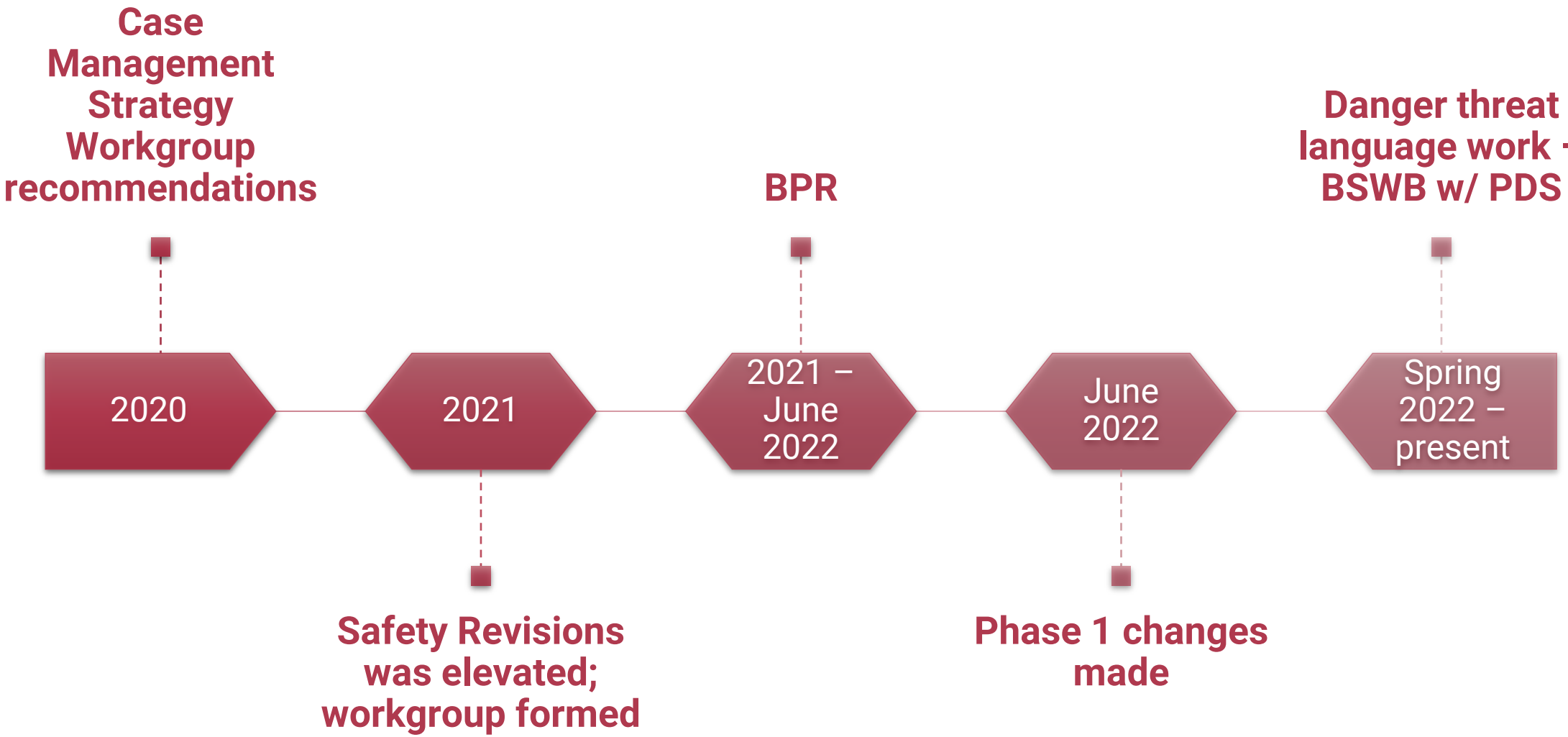
Vision

All Wisconsin children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.

We strive for justice in the child welfare system through addressing systemic oppression, inequity and racism.

Safety Revisions Overview

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families


Case Management Strategy Workgroup recommendations
2020
2021
Safety Revisions was elevated; workgroup formed
BPR
2021 – June 2022
June 2022
Phase 1 changes made
Danger threat language work – BSWB w/ PDS
Spring 2022 – present

Safety Revisions Elevated - 2021

Why were the changes necessary?

Racial disparities occur at nearly every major decision-making point along the child welfare continuum.

Why were the changes necessary?

Stakeholders identified the need for revisions to Wisconsin's current danger threat language and safety assessment process.

Project Scope

Enhance the current safety model (existing SAFE framework), to better facilitate a process to create comprehensive safety plans **with and informed by** families that better identify and document danger threats **AND** protective capacities.

Who?

Workgroup:

- 5 WCHSA Representatives
- DSP
- WCWPDS
- BRO
- DMCPS

Who?

Feedback from:

- Intertribal Child Welfare Committee
- WCHSA
- DCF's Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Parent Leaders in Child Welfare Group
- Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP)

Workgroup Formed: 2021;

Changes Implemented: June, 2022

What?

Identified problematic, biased language and where changes could be made

What?

Did not change intent of threat

What?

Removed language in the danger threats that contain buzzwords and subjective wording.

What?

Ground the danger threat in the parent’s/caregiver’s behavior and the effect on the child.

Why are additional changes necessary?

Refinements and improvements to the safety planning process…

Why are additional changes necessary?

…Facilitates upfront safety decisions informed by families

Why are additional changes necessary?

…Direct connection to the case process

Why are additional changes necessary?

…Keep more children and youth safely in their homes

Business Process Re-engineering (BPR):

Late 2021 – June 2022

Business Process Re-engineering (BPR)

Individual interviews and group workshops

Business Process Re-engineering (BPR)

Recommendations based on themes they heard throughout workshops/interviews

Safety Revisions II:
Spring 2022 – Present

What are We Trying to Fix?

How do we make safety assessing and planning more digestible, usable, result in safe kids

What are We Trying to Fix?

Identify kids at imminent risk of harm

What are We Trying to Fix?

Engage families earlier in the process

What are We Trying to Fix?

Keep more kids in home with plans

What are We Trying to Fix?

Fixing language so that it is equitable, just and wards against bias

Desired Outcome

Development of a process and criteria by which to identify children who are unsafe and require CPS intervention that focuses on maintaining children safely in their home, accomplished by engaging parents/caregivers in the assessment, decision making and planning process.

Building off workgroup and stakeholder feedback

Partnering with PDS

Scope is broader:

Will include additional changes to danger threat language

May include:

- Combining or eliminating threats
- Having one list of Danger Threats
- Changes to Safety Definitions and Threshold Criteria

Will not include:

- Eliminating the safety model completely

What's
Next?

2022									2023												
Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			
Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Danger Threat Language BSWB and PDS																					
							Sponsor Review (Recs.)														
									Stakeholder Feedback												
										eWiSACWIS Design Sessions											
										Policy Development; Training Updates; Communication to Stakeholders											

Revisions the safety assessment and planning process

Revisions to danger threat language

Merging with process recommendations from BPR

Break! Return in 15 Minutes

Revision the Safety Assessment

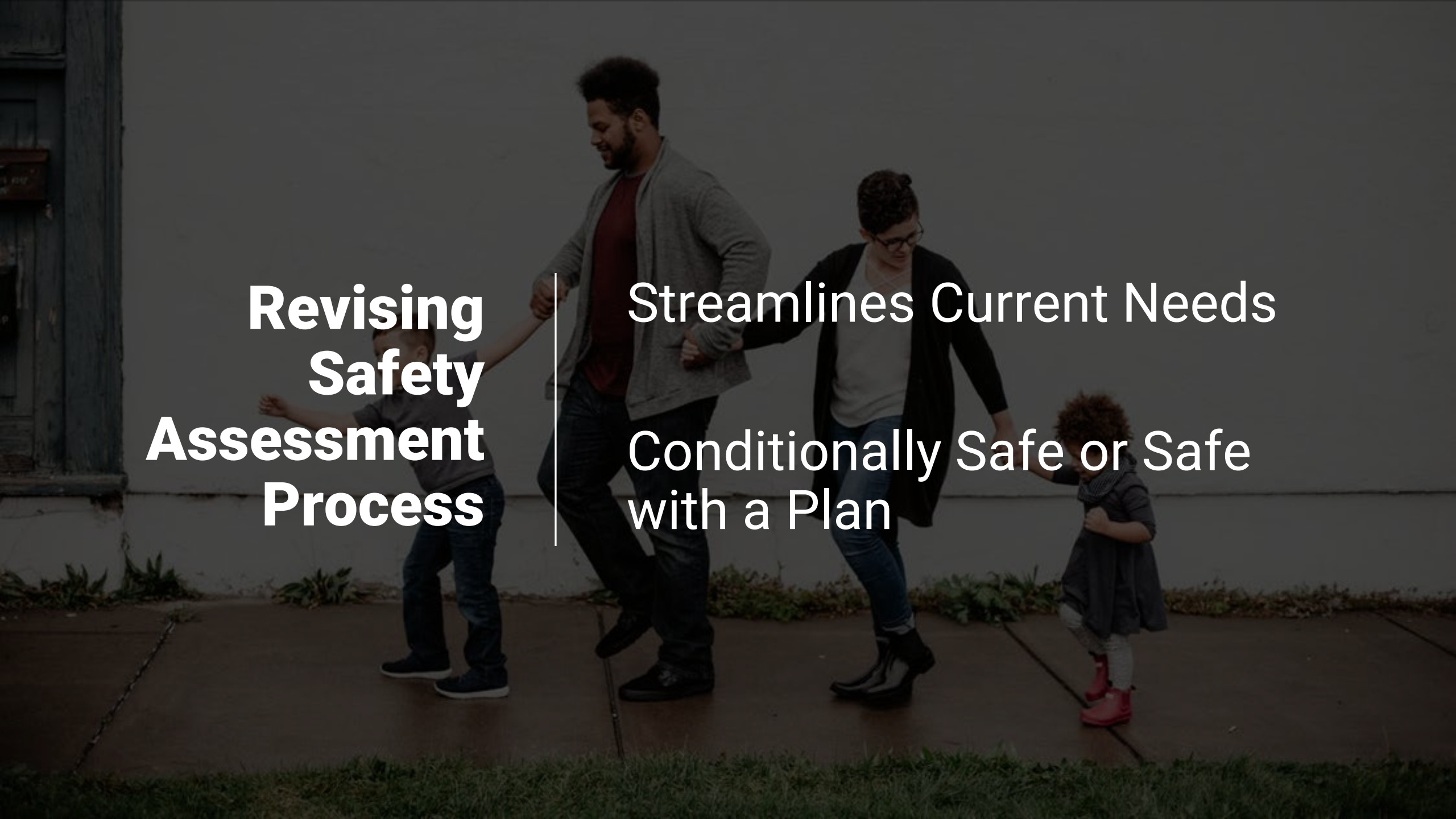
Documenting safety decisions earlier

Focus on the analysis

Revision the Safety Assessment

One Safety Assessment

Iterative Process



Revising Safety Assessment Process

Streamlines Current Needs

Conditionally Safe or Safe with a Plan

Discussion Questions

What are we missing?

What resonates with you?

How would changing the language to “conditionally safe” impact relationships with the court process and other stakeholders?

How might having one assessment that carries through play out in the field? What should we consider to make that helpful for your work or for the families you work with?

Danger Threats

Current Structure

Revised Structure

Current Structure

Attending to buzzwords and bias built into language

Using data to understand how threats are used

Revised Structure

Exploring utility of separating present and impending danger in two lists

Can they be merged?

Revised Structure

Attending to impacts of timing in identifying danger

Revised Structure

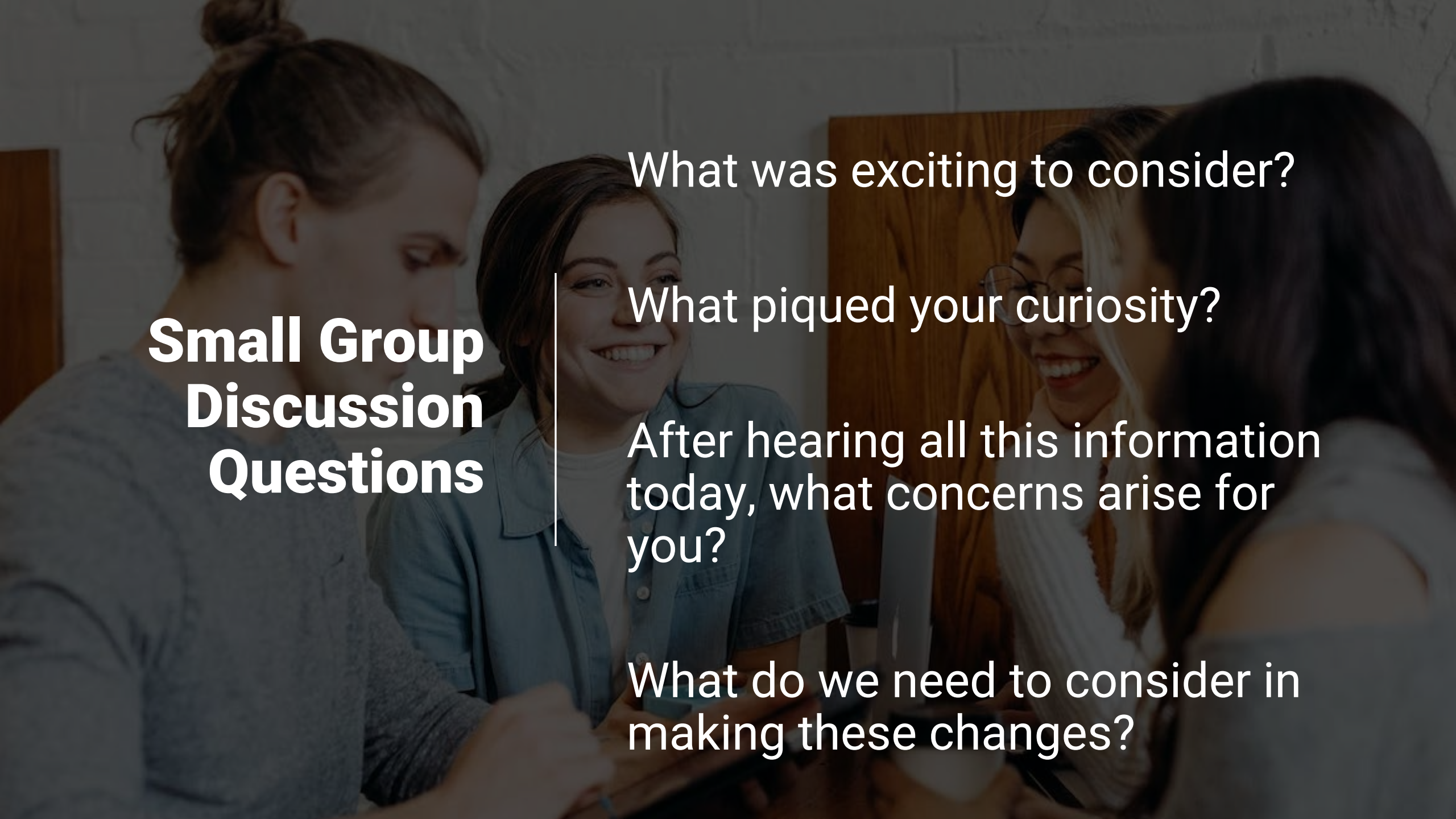
Individual threats or categories

Discussion Questions

How would having one list impact practice at different points in the case process?

Would we be losing anything by having just one list? What would we be gaining?

How do you currently use danger threat examples in your case practice?



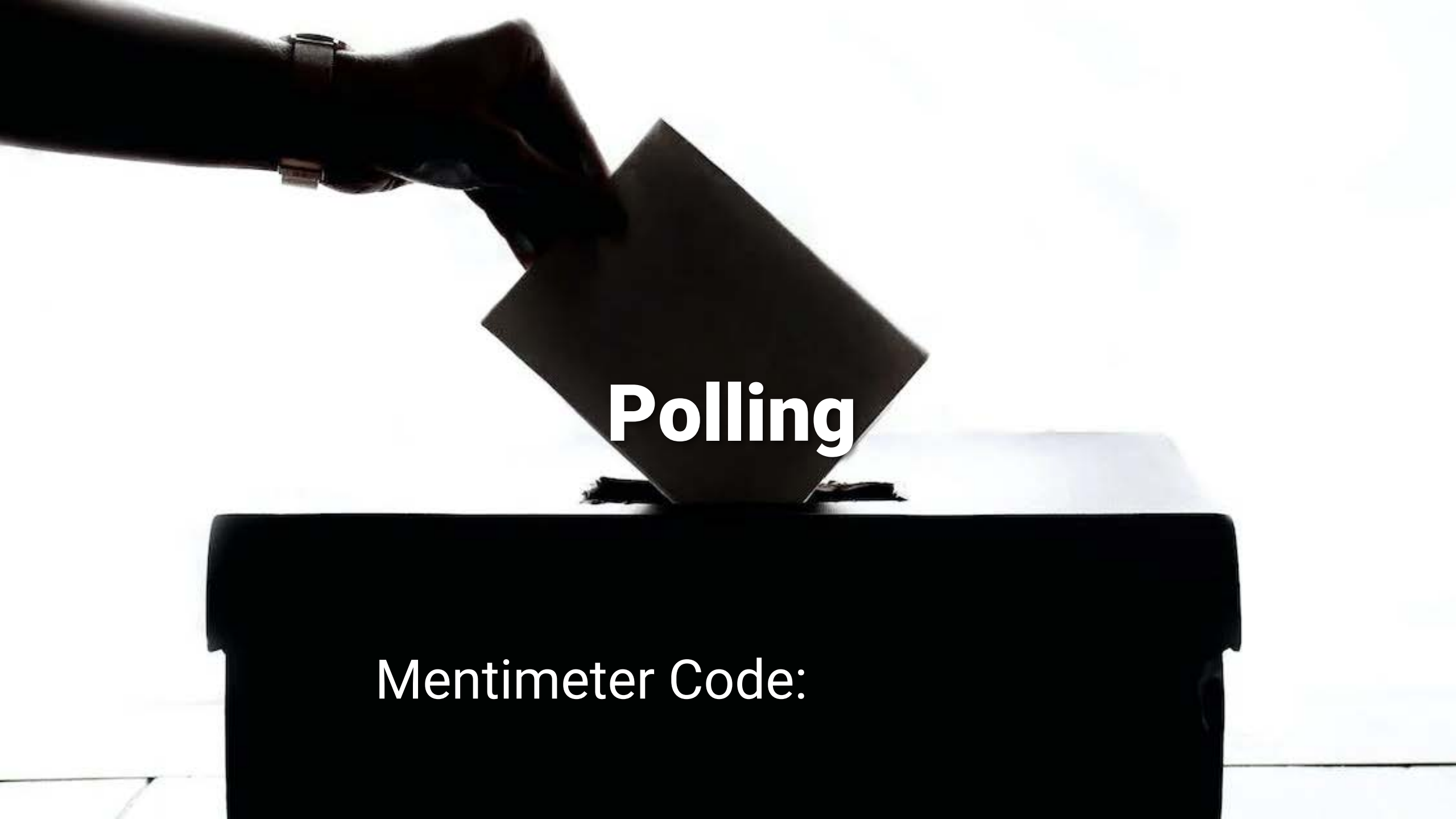
Small Group Discussion Questions

What was exciting to consider?

What piqued your curiosity?

After hearing all this information today, what concerns arise for you?

What do we need to consider in making these changes?



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Survey Monkey Opportunity

Provide feedback up to a week after the conference

Survey Monkey link in the session material on the Whova app.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SafetyRevisionsInstitute

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Email: DCFMBBSWBCWPP@wisconsin.gov

Safety Assessment and Planning Revisions Website: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/safety-process-improvements