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MCHB/DCAFH

February 2008

**Collaboration Efforts Involving ECCS
and State and Federal Mental Health,
Family Support and Prevention
Initiatives**

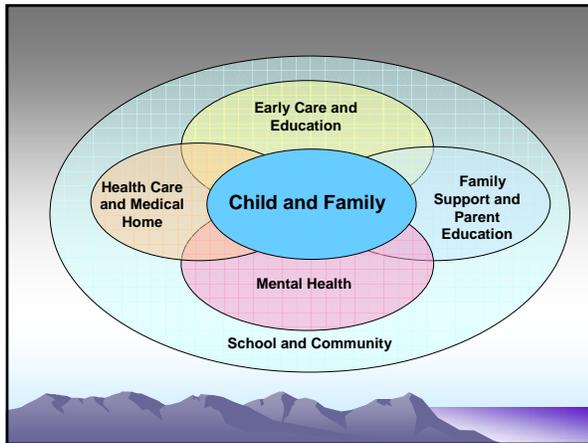
February 20, 2008

Moderator:
Dena Green

Colorado's ECCS and SAMHSA Initiatives

Collaboration to incorporate early childhood mental health into a comprehensive system of care

Rachel Hutson
Sarah Hoover
Jodi Hardin



Colorado's Partnership

- Project BLOOM (SAMHSA/CMHS System of Care Cooperative Agreement) funded in 2002
- Colorado's ECCS grant funded in 2003
- Deliberate inclusion and equality of all early childhood domains
- Authentic systemic change because of our initiatives
- Early Childhood Councils at local community level are inclusive of mental health

Areas of Collaboration

- Smart Start Colorado
- Comprehensive Developmental Screening
- Blue Ribbon Policy Council
- Professional Development
- Resources and Tools
- Medical Home and System of Care



Smart Start Colorado

- Comprehensive early childhood perspective to include all domains
- Early Childhood State Systems Team (ECSST)
- Strategic Plan
- BLOOM represented on ECSST
- Task force work intentionally represented all domains



Comprehensive Developmental Screening

- Integration of primary health care and mental health
- Ensuring social-emotional component is incorporated into developmental screen
- Flow chart for pediatric practices
- Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Project



Blue Ribbon Policy Council for Early Childhood Mental Health

- Smart Start Colorado partners are members on the Council
- Strategic plan for early childhood mental health that fits with the Smart Start Colorado strategic plan for early childhood



Professional Development

- Shared leadership in the Professional Development Task Force
- Developed RFP for an Office of Professional Development in Colorado, to focus on all of the early childhood domains, including mental health
- Targeted work around social-emotional health and early care and education (eg. Mental health consultation, social-emotional training)



Resources and Tools

- Systems Building Toolkit
- 16 child and family outcomes
- Early childhood cost model
- Online community assessment toolkit
- Policy Matters audit and update
- Family leadership activities



Medical Home and System of Care

- Linking and Aligning initiative with MCHB and SAMHSA
- Mental/behavioral health included in medical home scope
- Legislation

NATIONAL ALLIANCE
-of-
CHILDREN'S TRUST & PREVENTION
FUNDS

*Prevention, Family Strengthening
and Systems Building*

February 20, 2008

Martha Reeder, Program Manager
Early Childhood Initiative

The Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)

The Alliance's ECI strives to increase implementation of effective child abuse prevention/family strengthening strategies by deeply embedding the **Strengthening Families™** Protective Factors Framework throughout all systems that touch the lives of young children and their families.

*As developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy

With the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The Alliance and Children's Trust Funds are taking leadership roles in partnership with:

- State and national early childhood leaders
- Child welfare agencies
- Policymakers
- Parent leaders
- Other funders

The ECI is making a difference by effectively:

- ❖ Building strong state coalitions
- ❖ Identifying and funding exemplary early childhood learning centers
- ❖ Promoting partnerships with parents in all aspects of planning, implementation and evaluation
- ❖ Developing curricula and tools

The ECI is making a difference by effectively:

- ❖ Implementing innovative models of systems collaboration
- ❖ Collecting and analyzing data to track systemic changes
- ❖ Convening national conversations to reframe child abuse prevention

Former Arkansas ECCS Coordinator

- ❖ Programmatic activities of ECCS housed in Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
- ❖ Chairs of ECCS Work Groups recognized **Strengthening Families™** as valuable framework from the beginning
- ❖ Arkansas applied for and was chosen to be one of seven CSSP pilot states for **Strengthening Families™**

Beginnings of a Partnership

- ❖ As ECCS was housed in the Child Care office, they became one of the leads for **Strengthening Families™**
- ❖ Arkansas Children's Trust Fund became other primary lead for **Strengthening Families™**
- ❖ Relatively new partnership activities began

Developing Partnership

- ❖ CTF had been at the same table before, but not strategically involved in child care issues
- ❖ Suddenly, it was apparent that prevention should be integral part of systems development in multiple ways

Each partner brings new strengths to the work

- ❖ CTF director brought the “prevention” community into the early childhood conversation
- ❖ In my “child care” hat, I brought the concerns of the early care and education community into the viewfinder of the “prevention” partners

Once the conversation began . . .

New stakeholders wanted to join the discussion:

- ❖ Early childhood mental health
- ❖ Early intervention
- ❖ Parent Educators
- ❖ Children’s health concerns
- ❖ Child welfare

Strengthening Families™ framework provides a common language . . .

- ❖ Allowing disparate systems to communicate about shared goals.
- ❖ To identify the elements that create safe and stable environments where children not only survive, but truly thrive.

**Protective factors -
common sense elements**

Perhaps they did not previously
receive adequate attention ---
because they are so common
sense obvious!

**When we examine healthy
environments where children thrive . . .**

The protective factors seem to be
“naturally occurring phenomena”

Therefore, with the recent exciting
focus on building effective
systems for children and families
. . .

It Would Seem Foolish

To overlook any one of these
elements when building,
improving, or sustaining any
system that touches any part of a
child's life.

That being said

Partnership is Hard Work

- ❖ We can't be experts on every system that we partner with - we must rely on the expertise of our partners
- ❖ The quality of the relationships that we build with our partners is critical

Strong Partnerships Demand A Commitment to:

- ❖ Respect our partners and their expertise within the system in which they operate . . . the limitations, unique benefits, etc.
- ❖ Allow them to explain to us the intricacies of their system (why they can do certain things, cannot do others)
- ❖ Doing our homework - in order to understand the funding streams, goals and missions of our partners' organizations

The Strengthening Families™ Framework

- ❖ Creates a bridge between systems
- ❖ Understandable language that allows for the conversation about what is best for children and families
- ❖ Unites the conversation around shared goals

Shared Values Keep Us on Course

- ❖ It is easy to focus on what is **not** working.
- ❖ When things seem to be splintering apart, it is important to return to our shared values - why we do what we do.
- ❖ The clearer we are about these shared values, the easier it is to say on course.



Early Childhood Initiative

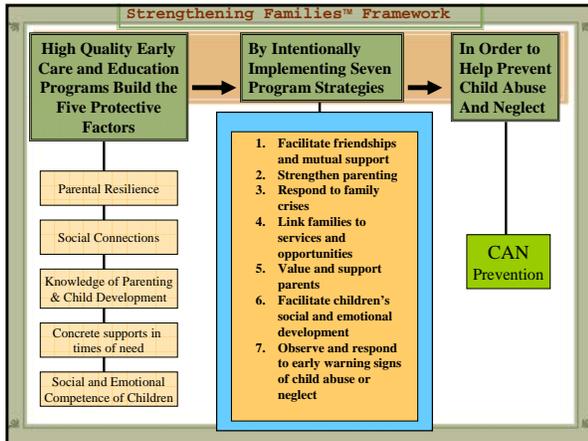
Grants to Nine CTFs

- ❖ Arkansas
- ❖ Georgia
- ❖ Idaho
- ❖ Kansas
- ❖ Maine
- ❖ Missouri
- ❖ New Hampshire
- ❖ New Jersey
- ❖ Washington

ECI Learning Community.....

Eleven Learning Community States in addition to the grantees!

- ❖ Alabama
- ❖ Alaska
- ❖ District of Columbia
- ❖ Louisiana
- ❖ Nebraska
- ❖ Oklahoma
- ❖ Pennsylvania
- ❖ Rhode Island
- ❖ South Carolina
- ❖ Tennessee
- ❖ Wisconsin



Some Surprising Observations!

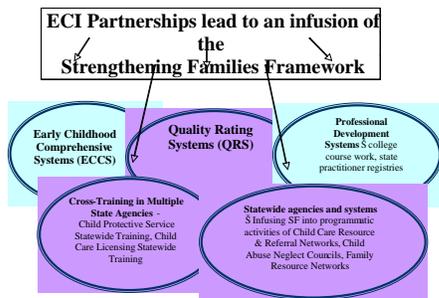
- ❖ When asked on January 2008 ECI/LC conference call about what states viewed as their most significant (and sometime surprising) accomplishment as a result fostered by the ECI, state CTF leads and their partners offered these observations:

New and more effective partnerships

"In Tennessee we have been able to develop a more effective and comprehensive network of connections with other state agencies and departments, bringing the work of the CTF more into the spotlight."

-Jeanne Brooks, Director
Tennessee CTF

ECI Leads to New Partnerships



ECI Infusion into EC Systems

"The surprising and significant accomplishment in Maine is that the Strengthening Families™ concepts and strategies have infiltrated so many more systems than we ever anticipated. The focus on Strengthening Families™ seems to be everywhere!"

Jan Clarkin, Maine CTF Director

- "Unlikely" partners are engaged
- Strength-based language incorporated into policy and contracts
- QRIS planning/implementation embraces SF

ECI Infusion into EC Systems

❖ *"In New Hampshire the thing we are the happiest with is the new connections, the spreading of the Protective Factors (PFs) and the overall "prevention" message."*

----Karen Carpenter, Executive Director
New Hampshire's CTF

ECI Infusion of Strengthening Families™ into Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

"We have been working with the Idaho AETC to infuse Strengthening Families™ into our QRIS. Twenty percent of the standards in the QRIS are related to Strengthening Families™."

---Margaret Hower

Idaho CTF

ECI encourages statewide spread of Strengthening Families™

"We are 98% of the way towards our goal of implementing Strengthening Families™ in 5 EC LEd programs in every county in New Jersey. This is made possible with training offered by the CCR&R, as they selected 5 programs in each county to receive training and technical assistance. It is very exciting to be statewide!"

----Pat Stanislaski,
Administrator, Office of Early Childhood Services, New Jersey Children's Trust Fund

ECI partnerships foster changes

"I have been part of state government for years, but I have never been part of a statewide partnership that has worked as well as the Strengthening Families™ Initiative."

----Laura Malzner, Missouri

Some outcomes:

- PF language incorporated into CTF grants and contracts
- PF Training for CC licensing specialists
- Possible hiring of a Strengthening Families™ Coordinator
- PFs in QRIS Plan

ECI encourages strategic planning

"The most exciting outcome in Georgia has been the scope of participation in Strengthening Families, which has exceeded all our initial expectations."

---Carol Wilson,
Georgia CTF

Many partners involved in strategic planning process:

- Child-serving agencies
- Family support agencies

Lessons learned

"Here are some lessons we have learned:

- *Be patient.*
- *Have a consistent message.*
- *Invite key decision makers in as partners.*
- *Have clear goals and strategies.*
- *Have good data about what is changing for families, children, etc.*
- *Use the research.*
- *Find a way to provide regular support to programs implementing this model.*
- *Track changes, evaluate."*

---Shirley Pittz,
Alaska ECCS Coordinator

Strengthening Families™ National Network

Levers of Change:

- Parent Leadership
- Infrastructure Changes
- Professional Development
- Early Childhood Systems Integration
- Child Welfare/Early Care & Ed Linkages

Simultaneous Launch - February 25, 2008

- ❖ Strengthening Families™ National Network
- ❖ New Strengthening Families™ Website:
www.strengtheningfamilies.net



For more information, please contact:
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Questions & Answers

Thank you for attending this event.

Please complete the evaluation directly following the webcast.

Archives of the event are located at,
<http://www.mchcom.com>
