Building Community Pathways to Family First Prevention Services: Partnering to Redesign the Family Engagement and Service Delivery Context

October 4, 2023
2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT/12:00pm MT/11:00am PT





Land Acknowledgement

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted.

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Land Acknowledgement

https://native-land.ca/

- **This meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the _____ People, and I pay my respect to elders both past and present, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations."**
  - Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.
- **Deliver** your statement in the chat including the land/people relevant to the land that you are occupying during this session.
- **Learn more** by taking time to learn about the Indigenous history of the land you live on. The Partnership team will share the link to the US Department of Arts and Culture in the chat now. Visit https://usdac.us/nativeland to get started.

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The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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Lillie Seels

Director, Practice Transformation

National Community Action Partnership

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Background: NCAP and Chapin Hall Collaboration
- Presentation: Building Community Pathways to Family First Prevention Services
- Q & A
- Resources and Upcoming Events

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Introduction



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Chapin Hall provides public and private decision-makers with rigorous data analysis and achievable solutions to support them in improving the lives of children, youth and families.

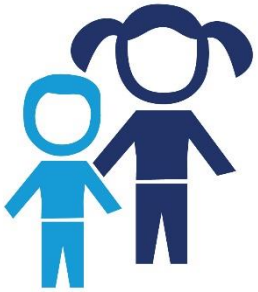


Child Welfare

Community Capacity

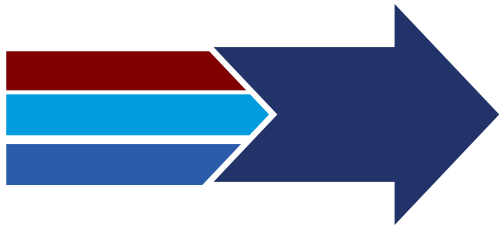
Youth Homelessness

COHORT STRUCTURE CONCEPT









Working groups			Blended working groups
Child welfare	Community Action	Community Leadership Grassroots Efforts	CAA, child welfare agency, and community leadership building relationships and working toward change

Presenter



Krista Thomas

Senior Policy Fellow

Chapin Hall

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Menti Poll



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Building Community Pathways to Family First Prevention Services: Partnering to Redesign the Family Engagement and Service Delivery Context

National Community Action Partnership
Webinar Wednesdays – October 4, 2023

Krista Thomas, PhD
Senior Policy Fellow
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

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The Context for Innovation

Envisioning the Next 25 Years in Child Welfare

Policy Milestones: Establishing the current child welfare system

Early 1900s

Mother's Pensions

Provided aid via cash payments primarily for White widows with young children.

1935

Social Security Act

Authorized the first federal grants for child welfare purposes.

1960

Flemming Rule (FR)

Implemented in response to states denying ADC benefits to families, mostly Black, because their homes were deemed "unsuitable." It required states to either 1) provide supports to these families OR 2) remove the children and place them in foster care.

1961

Social Security Act Amendments

Enabled states to receive federal matching funds for costs associated with foster care placements.

1974

CAPTA

First major federal legislation addressing child abuse and neglect. Required states to establish reporting and investigation procedures. Resulted in many unsubstantiated reports and an increase in children in foster care.

1978

Indian Child Welfare Act

Enacted in response to Native children being removed from their homes at higher rates than non-Native children. Governs the removal and out-of-home placement of Native children and requires "active efforts" to prevent removal.

1980

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act

Landmark legislation establishing federal oversight responsibilities and required states to make reasonable efforts to keep families together and reunify timely if separation occurred.

1993

Family Preservation and Support Program

Program established in response to concerns that insufficient efforts were being directed toward family preservation and reunification

1997

Adoption and Safe Families Act

Encouraged innovative efforts by states to focus on safety, permanency, and well-being. A specific focus was placed on expediting permanency decisions.

2008

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act

Designed to promote permanency by establishing the option of subsidized guardianship for kin caregivers, provide option for states to extend foster care to age 21, increased supports for older youth, and allowed Tribal title IV-E programs.

2018

Family First Prevention Services Act

Landmark legislation that made federal reimbursement possible for the cost of evidence-based prevention services for identified candidates and their families, implemented congregate care restrictions, and invested in kinship navigation services.

Total Annual Expenditures on Child Welfare Systems

$33 billion

total direct public expenditures by state & local child welfare agencies (SFY 2018)



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Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

Largest federal funding stream for child welfare activities

FY2023 total estimated expenditures are $12B across all service categories

- Foster care ~$6B
- Adoption and guardianship assistance $4,473M
- Prevention services $183M

(Congressional Research Services, 2023)

Family First

Transforming child welfare to achieve better outcomes for children and families



Leveraging Family First to Promote Child Welfare System Redesign

Prevention

Evidence-Based Programs

Reducing Congregate Care

Supporting Kin Caregivers

Federal Reimbursement for Evidence-Based Prevention Services



In-home parent skill-building and development



Substance abuse treatment & prevention



Mental health treatment

Family First: Tensions in Prevention

OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ **Transform** the child welfare focus from foster care to prevention, increased family stability, and well-being
- ✓ **Invest** in evidence-based interventions
- ✓ **Apply** a trauma-responsive lens to the continuum of prevention services
- ✓ **Partner** across systems to align prevention efforts
- ✓ **Scale** up prevention services and de-scale foster care
- ✓ **Build** child welfare and community capacity to serve families

CHALLENGES

- **Imminent risk** language can be prohibitive to upstream engagement of families
- Eligible prevention services focus solely on **perceived family deficits** and not necessarily the root causes of family stressors and risk of child welfare involvement (e.g., poverty); gaps in approved, **culturally responsive programs**
- Defaults to the **traditional child welfare paradigm** (though there are opportunities to think beyond it!)
- Logistical challenges, including state agency **data capacity** and provider **billing** across funding sources



Community Pathways

Building Community Pathways



- **Flexibilities exist** in defining candidates for prevention services and the context in which they receive and are connected to evidence-based prevention services (EBPs)

- A growing number of states are **reconceptualizing** their prevention continuum, the role of community agencies, and the family service experience

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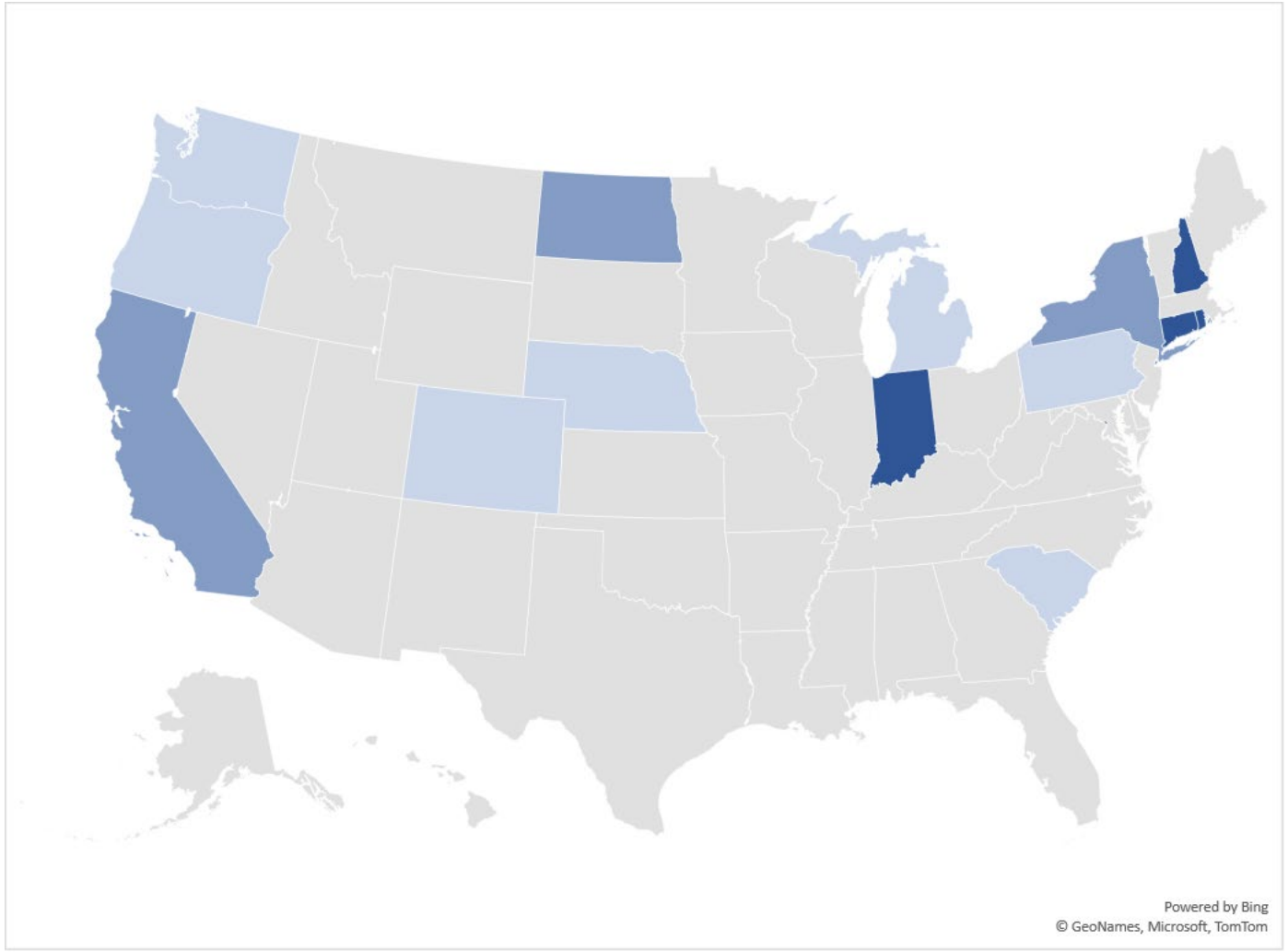
Operationalizing a Community Pathway

- A "community pathway" is **any avenue that families can use to access title IV-E funded prevention services through Family First *outside* of the traditional child welfare** service delivery & case management context

- **Who provides service delivery & case management in a community pathway?** Options include but are not limited to:
  - Contracted community-based agencies *(e.g. family resource centers)*
  - Specific evidence-based prevention service providers *(e.g. home visitors)*
  - Non-child welfare public agency partners *(e.g. Departments of homelessness, behavioral health, public assistance, etc.)*



Community Pathway National Landscape



Implementing	**CT, DC, IN, NH, RI,**
Readying	**CA, NY, ND**
Conceptualizing	**CO, MI, NE, OR, PA, SC, WA**

Benefits and Opportunities

Increased investment in community capacity to engage and serve families, leveraging state and federal funds

Prevention services provided to families through ***trusted community entities***

Family prevention service experience ***outside*** of the traditional child welfare paradigm

Flexibility in how community pathways can be conceptualized and implemented toward a reduction in the CPS footprint in families' lives

Stronger partnerships between child welfare agencies, community entities, and providers of evidence-based services

Challenges and Tensions

Optimizing	Optimizing flexibility within the Family First legislative framework
Increasing	Increasing access to prevention services without increasing surveillance or facilitating unnecessary child welfare system involvement
Balancing	Balancing data reporting requirements and family consent and privacy
Maximizing	Maximizing community agency while maintaining required functions of the state title IV-E agency
Building	Building community infrastructure and capacity to perform required care, coordination and data functions

Family First Prevention Services Act: Key Prevention Program Activities



Identifying & **determining who is eligible** for prevention services approved in jurisdiction's IV-E Prevention Plan *("candidates")*

Developing & monitoring child-specific prevention plans for each child determined to be eligible for Family First evidence-based practices (EBPs)

Referring & connecting children and their families to Family First EBPs

Providing Family First EBPs

Conducting ongoing risk & safety assessments of children and families receiving Family First EBPs

Fidelity monitoring of EBPs & continuous quality improvement (CQI) process

Data reporting to federal government on each child who receives Family First EBPs

Potential Pathways to Access Family First Prevention Services in the Community

Before any child welfare involvement

- Indiana
- CA
- Connecticut
- DC
- NY
- Rhode Island

After a call to the hotline or closed CPS investigation

- DC
- CA
- Connecticut
- Indiana
- Rhode Island

After a child welfare case is closed

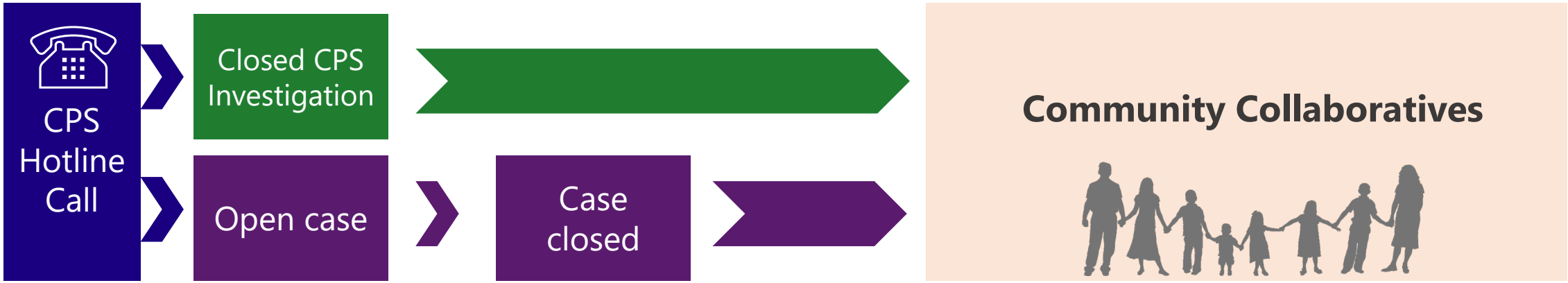
- DC
- CA
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island

*In all pathways, the IV-E agency must make the final candidacy determination.

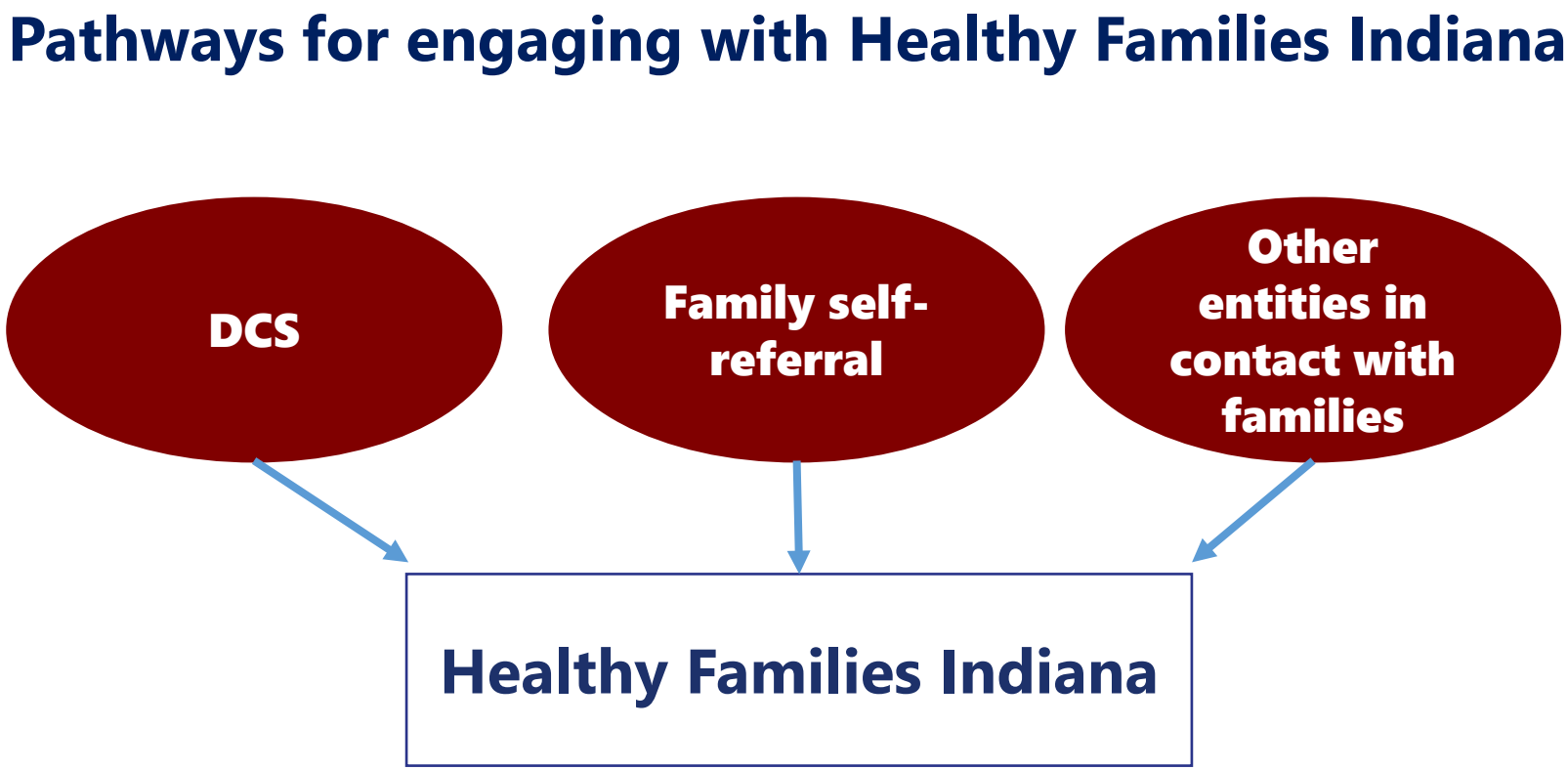
Community Pathway: District of Columbia

Children remain eligible for Family First prevention services following a closed CPS investigation or after a child welfare case is closed.

Children and their families are served by trusted community organizations (Community Collaboratives) with the benefit of title IV-E funds and no on-going child welfare involvement



Community Pathway: Indiana



Community Pathway: Indiana

Assessments

- HFI will use the Family Resilience and Opportunity for Growth (FROG) scale to assess factors associated with increased risk for maltreatment or other adverse childhood experiences.

→ **DCS makes candidacy determination**

Service/Prevention Plan

- HFI home-visiting staff will use the responses from the FROG scale to create a service plan to organize the risks, concerns and needs identified by families with the activities, interventions and supports provided by the family support specialist to help ameliorate family risk. **This service plan meets the requirements of a child specific prevention plan as defined in legislation.**

→ **HFI service plan is the child-specific prevention plan**

Community Pathway: Connecticut

No Child Welfare Involvement

- Children who are chronically absent from preschool/or truant from school
- Children of incarcerated parents
- Youth that have experienced human trafficking
- Unstably housed/homeless youth and their families
- Families experience interpersonal violence (IPV)
- Youth who have been referred to juvenile review boards, youth service bureaus, or another diversion program or who have been arrested
- Caregivers or children who have a substance use disorder, mental health condition, or disability that impacts parenting
- Infants born substance-exposed

Post-Child Welfare Involvement

- Youth that have exited foster care
- Families accepted for Voluntary Services *(referred from hotline)*

Community Pathway: Connecticut

The goal is for families to be served as far upstream as possible to prevent ongoing involvement in the child welfare system.



CHILD/FAMILY IS REFERRED.

Potential referral sources:

- Family/Self Referral
- Schools
- Partner Agencies & Organizations
- Healthcare



INITIAL ASSESSMENTS

Community Management Entity (CME) assesses

- Safety & Risk
- Strengths & Needs
- Eligibility & Demographic Info
- Child Specific Prevention Plan



ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

Child Welfare staff makes final determination

- Using data & recommendations from the CME
- IV-E agency makes the final candidacy decision

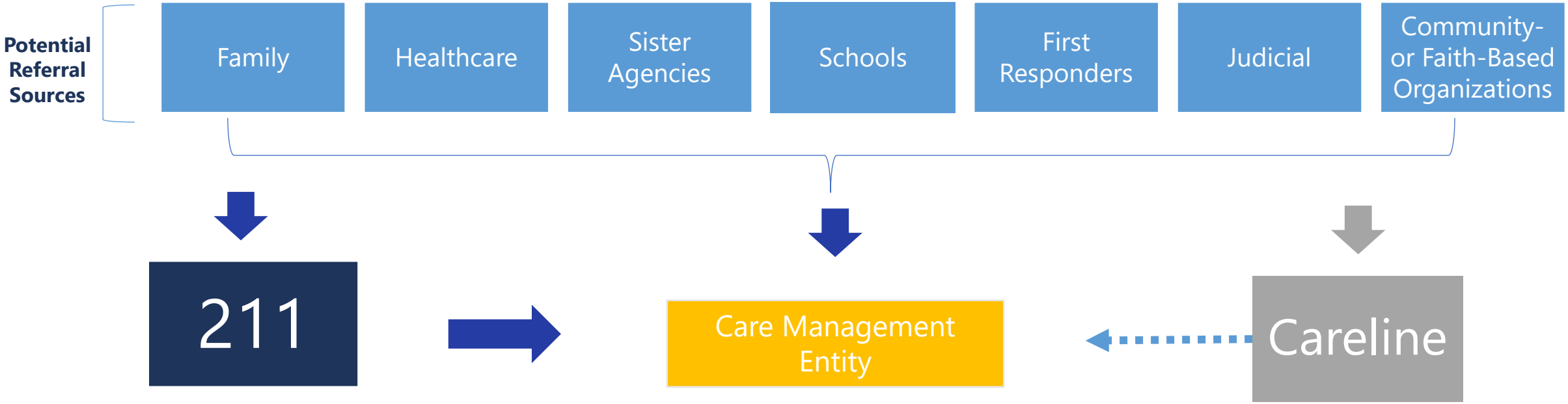


SERVICE REFERRAL & MONITORING

CME leads case management efforts

- CME refers and monitors services
- CME reports monitoring data to Child Welfare

Connecticut: Establishing a Care Management Entity



Community Pathway: Rhode Island

- Since 2009, the Rhode Island Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) has been partnering with the Department of Health (RIDOH) to develop a network of prevention directed providers statewide, Family Community Care Partnership (FCCP).
- FCCP deploys both primary and secondary prevention interventions.
    - Primary
        - Public service announcements: Safe Sleeping; Parenting; Child Development
        - Financial; Housing; Employment; Health Care Assess
    - Secondary
        - Wraparound; Well-Supported Home Visiting Programs
- **Approximately 3% of families discharged from FCCPs become involved with the Department within six months.**

Community Pathway: Rhode Island

No Child Welfare Involvement

- Children & families referred to the Family Community Care Partnerships (FCCP) by another community-based organization or self-referral.

Post Child Welfare Involvement

- Children & families that are assessed by the DCYF Support and Response Unit (SRU) but receive services through the FCCPs.
    - Children ages 0–17 years whose families have been assessed following a direct call by the family to the SRU seeking assistance from DCYF
    - Families referred to the SRU following a CPS hotline call where Strategic Decision Making (SDM) did not identify safety factors, but risk is present.
- Children who are post-guardianship and/or post-adoption at risk for disruption of placement and receive services through the FCCPs.

Community Pathway: New York



No Child Welfare Involvement

- Children eligible and receiving Healthy Families New York (HFNY) home visiting services *(with no open case)*
  - New York State children who meet the criteria for enrollment in HFNY will be categorically approved as "candidates for foster care"
  - HFNY home visitors will use responses from the Family Resilience and Opportunities for Growth (FROG) scale & other HFNY screening tools to create an individualized preventive service plan
- Children who meet the criteria for opening a preventive services case that are identified and served by community-based providers or partner state agencies outside the formal child welfare system *(future implementation)*
- "No Track" families with economic, concrete, or other preventive service needs served through primary prevention programs without opening a services case *(future implementation)*

Key Community Pathway Considerations

- Engagement & Partnerships
- Governance & Decision-Making
- Vision & Values
- Communication & Messaging
- Community Providers & Contracts
- Identifying Candidates & Engaging Families
- Child-Specific Prevention Plan Development & Candidacy Determination
- Service Identification, Referrals & Coordination with EBP Providers
- Risk & Safety Monitoring
- IT Infrastructure, Data Collection & Data Sharing
- Monitoring & CQI
- Staff Selection & Human Resources Considerations
- Training & Coaching

Questions & Discussion



- What are some ways that Community Action Agencies might partner with child welfare agencies to design and implement community pathways to Family First prevention services?
- What opportunities do you see that might be associated with this approach?
- What concerns or reservations do you have about this approach to facilitating access to maltreatment prevention services?
- How could CAAs and child welfare agencies work together to build community pathways that are responsive, equitable, and inclusive?

Contact information

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Call to Action



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Resources & Upcoming Events



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We want to hear from you!



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Upcoming Webinar Series

Child and Family Well-being System: Economic & Concrete Supports as a Core Component

Wednesday October 25th 2:00 – 3:30pm EST

This webinar will share the growing body of evidence on the relationship between increased access to economic and concrete supports and reduced risk of family child welfare involvement. The intersection of family economic insecurity and involvement with child welfare will be discussed, as well as the potential for increased access to economic and concrete supports to address long-standing racial inequities and disproportionate child welfare involvement for families of color. Policy examples will be shared that demonstrate innovative pathways to increase the provision of economic and concrete supports as a child welfare prevention strategy and opportunities for partnerships with communities. Reorienting and resourcing child and family well-being and child welfare prevention will require new mindsets, partnerships and policies—a vision for the way forward will be introduced.

Register at https://tinyurl.com/ChapinHall25

or Scan the QR Code:

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The new and improved Community Action Academy is now LIVE!

Community Action Academy, our online learning hub, has a **new look**! The platform has been updated is now LIVE!

Download NCAP's **guide** to help you in getting started with the new platform.

For assistance or questions related to creating a new account or any other concerns, users can reach out to Tayla Daniel at **tdaniel@communityactionpartnership.com**
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FRESH FINDS

THE LATEST ANTI-POVERTY RESOURCES

Explore the latest resources, webinars, and funding opportunities from other organizations engaging in anti-poverty efforts. The list is updated periodically to ensure "freshness!"



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Thank you for joining us!

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