Defining an ECMH System (Knitzer, 2000)

- A set of strategies and perspectives that:
  - Promote the emotional and behavioral well-being of young children
  - Help families address barriers
  - Expand the competencies of caregivers
  - Ensure that those with identified developmental difficulties are getting services
A Continuum of Supports

- Public health approach:
  - Promotion
  - Prevention
  - Intervention
What does an effective system look like at the service level?

- Services and supports that are comprehensive and coordinated
- Children and families accessing services earlier on the continuum
- Well-equipped workforces (early care and education, health, mental health, etc.)
- Connections across systems that don’t typically collaborate
What does an effective system look like at the state or community level?

- Cross-systems understanding
- Joint strategic planning
- Information sharing across agencies
- Connections across systems that don’t typically collaborate
What needs to be done?

- Look across systems for financing options and ways to share resources
- Develop shared, measurable systems-level goals
- Connect with existing systems-building efforts
- Create interagency partnerships for training
Resources at NCCP

♦ Social-emotional Development in Early Childhood: What Every Policymaker Should Know

♦ Promoting Young Children’s Health and Development: Taking Stock of State Policies

♦ Promoting Social-emotional Wellbeing in Early Intervention Services: A Fifty-state View

♦ Supporting Parents of Young Children in the Child Welfare System
Resources at NCCP

- Indicators for Social-emotional Development in Early Childhood: A Guide for Local Stakeholders
- Forthcoming: Promoting the Social-emotional Well-being of Infants and Toddlers in Early Intervention Programs: Promising Strategies in Four Communities

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