Synthesis of State Strategies & Key Actions

Strengthening State Systems to Promote Early Childhood Development: Taking it to the Next Level

Kay Johnson, Project THRIVE at NCCP

January 19, 2007
Established at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), Project THRIVE is a public policy analysis and education initiative to promote healthy child development.

This work is supported through a cooperative agreement with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA-DHHS.
Strategies & Actions: Finance (1)

• Conduct fiscal scans & fiscal mapping
• Look for ways to maximize existing funds
  – Matching federal dollars
  – Reducing duplication in administrative costs
  – Sharing resources, cross-system
• Use results-accountability framework
Strategies & Actions: Finance (2)

• Get dedicated or alternative funding
  – New taxes, trust funds, etc.
    • Florida ad valorem (1 cent tax),
    • Louisiana tax credit
    • Arizona tobacco tax initiative
  – Corporate and philanthropic funding
    • Washington State
• Create incentives for local systems
• Reduce federal policy barriers
  – Get waivers
  – Learn how others have consolidated
• Focus on specific populations at risk and decide how to fund services for that portion of the system of systems
  – e.g., ECMH, multi-risk families, 0-3
Strategies & Actions: Finance (4)

• Build support for increased investment
• Use economic arguments, return on investment
• Show cost of remediation compared to prevention
Strategies & Actions: Governance (1)

STATE LEVEL
- Formalize interagency groups
- Get more buy-in at cabinet level
- Inform changing administration
- Mechanisms to do cross-system data analysis
Strategies & Actions: Governance (2)

LOCAL LEVEL

• Support local/regional planning
• Provide incentives grants for local systems development
• Balance local flexibility with State accountability
Strategies & Actions: Governance (3)

• Study other state models
• Consolidate functions into a “child development” or “early childhood” unit
• Use MOU & RFP as mechanisms
Strategies & Actions: Provider Support (1)

- Connect professional development to standards
  - QRS
  - Benchmarks
- Create core curriculum on early childhood to use across systems
- “Raise the Bar on Quality” – create a better understanding of what quality is
Strategies & Actions: Provider Support (2)

- Assess what providers want and need
- Determine existing capacity relative to access gaps and needs
- Look at broad picture of professional development, not just ECE
- Link with higher education
Strategies & Actions: Provider Support (3)

• Cross-system, in-service training
  – Health, nutrition, physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development
  – Cross-system group of professionals
    • ECE, Part C, child welfare, etc.
  – Link to core curriculum
Accountability

- Common assessment tools
- Common quality standards
- Do more RBA & performance monitoring of system and evaluation of programs
- Get federal agencies to request/require greater collaboration

www.nccp.org
Other

• Public engagement campaigns
• Clarify mission of the work
• Broaden group working on systems development
• Head Start
  – Mechanisms to link to Pre-K
  – More linkage to ECCS
BUILD COMMON GROUND

- Common assessment tools
- Common quality standards
- Common goals/measures/indicators
## Assessing State Progress

### System Integration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGH</th>
<th>LOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>System of systems approach</td>
<td>Still trying to get cross-systems communication going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sector plan</td>
<td>Cataloging, not integrating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasis on mechanisms for systems integration</td>
<td>Plan primarily focused on MCH programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallel emphasis across sectors (health, mental health, early care and education)</td>
<td>State primarily focused on Pre-K or preschool education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sector fiscal planning</td>
<td>Continuing to focus primarily on Healthy Child Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Assessing State Progress

### Governance and Structural Mechanisms

| HIGH | • Formally established, cross-sector ECCS group  
• Structures to support local systems integration  
• Cabinet-level leadership involved  
• Parent leaders engaged  
• A public-private entity is established and funded.  
• Operational program or policy goals linked to specific strategies |
| LOW | • Informally convened planning or implementation group  
• MCH-centric group, with only nominal engagement of MH, ECE, etc.  
• No structures to support local systems work.  
• No senior official buy in |
For more information or questions, contact us at Project THRIVE

646-284-9644 ext. 6456
Thrive@nccp.org

Kay Johnson, MPH, MEd
THRIVE Project Director

Jane Knitzer, EdD
Executive Director,
National Center for Children in Poverty

Suzanne Theberge, MPH
THRIVE Project Coordinator

Leslie Davidson, MD
Senior Health Advisor

www.nccp.org