The State of Prevention: Family First Prevention Services Act and Early Childhood Prevention Programs
Welcome.
Today’s Program

Family First Prevention Services Act: Opportunities for Influence and Action

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Structural Racism and Poverty as Drivers of Entry into the Child Welfare System

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Family First Prevention Services Act: Opportunities for Influence and Action

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What’s in a name?
Placing Family First in historical context: this is the culmination of a 40+ year push for family care

1961  AFDC Foster Care created
1980  Reasonable efforts, Adoption Assistance (lost battle to include prevention funding in Title IV-E)
1994  IV-B Part 2 (FPFS) created – Capped prevention funding
1994  First IV-E Waivers to spur prevention
1996  TANF Block Grant (EA prevention funds rolled in)
1997  ASFA (IV-B language on services for timely reunification that was intended for IV-E)
2008  Fostering Connections Act (push for family placements with kin, and placing siblings together)
2010  ACA (home visiting prevention services)
2011  Child Welfare Improvement Act (reauthorization of waivers)
Implications and Opportunities

• Historically, not all children placed in foster care due to imminent danger
• Many public child welfare agencies underfunded and unable to provide voluntary services to intact families
• Little evidence to demonstrate effectiveness of services to support families

*Family First changes that – removes the financial incentive to remove children from family home and creates opportunity to develop continuum of care to support families in their communities
Where are we now?

• Nine states and tribes have submitted the Title IV-E 5 year prevention plan
• Six of those plans have been approved by the Children’s Bureau
• Ongoing efforts across states and jurisdictions to form partnerships across the system (CPS, Courts, Community Agencies, Health, Advocacy, Education, Legal, Philanthropy, Research and Academia) to develop comprehensive 5 year plan
• Most important aspect of this is the state definition of candidacy
Opportunities to Influence

- Broad Stakeholder Input
- New Candidacy Definition
- Five Year Prevention Plan
Why It Matters

- Improved Outcomes
- Poverty vs Neglect
- Racial Justice
- Focus on Child Care
- Reimagining Child Welfare System
Early Childhood Field As Experts

• Many of evidence based models receiving initial approval are from the early childhood field

• Existing relationships with those model developers will be key as work to adapt to needs of differing/new populations

• Goal of raising this work up and out of CPS agency made possible by existing expertise in Public Health and Early Childhood and Education
Families First DC

DC has embraced a family strengthening vision that is broader and bolder than Family First, and Mayor Muriel Bowser has reinforced that vision with a companion initiative: Families First DC. In her FY20 budget, the Mayor has proposed $4.75 million to fund ten Family Success Centers in targeted neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, where approximately three-quarters of the children and families served by CFSA live. Mayor Bowser is investing in CFSA’s long-standing prevention and early intervention work to an unprecedented level through the launch of a new city-wide prevention plan: Families First DC.

The goal for Families First DC is to:

- **Empower Communities**: Place-based approach - neighborhoods, and families will create Family Success Centers to meet their specific needs.
- **Integrate Services**: Centers will be uniquely designed by each community to facilitate access to existing government and community resources tailored to
The Family First Prevention Services Act offers unprecedented federal support for evidence-based prevention of foster care services for mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parent skills training and adds additional requirements to ensure congregate care best practice. Through a coordinated effort that required a vast multi-disciplinary and multi-divisional effort, Utah began Family First on Oct. 1, 2019.
New York State Initiative
Connecticut Efforts
CT Workgroups

Connecticut Family First

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.

COMMITTEES / WORKGROUPS:

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Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.
The candidacy workgroup’s scope is to develop a data-informed recommendation(s) of the populations of focus for prevention so that the governance committee can make decisions about the title IV-E Prevention Plan’s definition of candidacy and inform its larger prevention system efforts. The two goals require the consideration of two related but separate populations with different characteristics, as represented in the diagram below.

- **Candidacy**
- **Children/ Families to Target for Prevention Efforts**

Children determined at imminent risk of entering foster care about a Family First EPD for their family to prevent that entry PLUS pregnant/parenting youth.
Thank You!

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Questions
The Children’s Village
Keeping Children Safe and Families Together since 1851

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Founded, 1851

- New York Juvenile Asylum (not an orphanage)
The Orphan Train 1854-1929
• Responsible for approximately 3,000 each day

• 40% high-need residential care, “hard-to-place”
  deep-end foster care, juvenile justice & immigration.

• 60% prevention – family foster care, wrap-around, school-based, community investment

• A strong team of 1400 & 5 labor unions
A PERSISTENT THEME

Family Separation
RESONS FOR FAMILY SEPARATION

Neglect: 75%
Physical Abuse: 18%
Sexual Abuse: 9%
Other Maltreatment: 7%
TWO POWERFUL DRIVERS
Driver 1: They CHOOSE

POOR PEOPLE?

CALL THEM LAZY
Driver 2:
20 years of data:

- Black children enter faster, penetrate the system faster, stay longer and exit with the worst outcomes
- Disproportionality is a fact & not an accident!

**Black Codes**

- Mississippi “indenture” boys until 21, girls until 18
- South Carolina “court apprenticed”
- Color is not a proxy
Implicit Bias

- DANGEROUS TO THEIR OWN CHILDREN
- DAMAGED
- UNTRUSTWORTHY
- TAKING ADVANTAGE
- DANGEROUS COMMUNITIES
- LETS SAVE THE CHILDREN
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
Toward a more perfect Union

• Choose to be an ally
• Find your voice
• Take a small risk, question
• Be bold, take action
the children we serve
want to be like you & me
LOVED, CHOSEN, ALLOWED
our history is clear
Black people are not chosen & allowed
Black families are not a threat.
They love their children.
neglect is primary
not
ABUSE
poverty
does not equal
CHILD HARM
poverty does not mean TRAUMA
poor families love their CHILDREN
poor families enjoy deeply fulfilling lives
child welfare is not a solution for POVERTY
government & charity is never a substitute for FAMILY + LOVE + BELONGING
RELATIONSHIPS

heal

WITHOUT IT, ALL SOLUTIONS FAIL
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childrensvillage.org
Questions
www.earlysuccess.org/stateactioncalls