



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
www.ncdhhs.gov

Division of Social Services

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Child Welfare Services

Mission

- The Division of Social Services, Child Welfare Services Section is committed to provide family-centered services to children and families to achieve well-being through ensuring self-sufficiency, support, safety, and permanence.

Vision

- All programs administered by the Division of Social Services will embrace family centered practice principles and provide services that promote security and safety for all. This means that every child in North Carolina will grow up in a safe, permanent, self-sufficient family where well-being needs of all are met.

Strengthening Families: Preventing Child Abuse

Investing in Community Based Programs

- To provide children with safe, nurturing environments that promote their physical and emotional well-being by promoting protective factors and decreasing risk factors in families and communities.

Investment in Strong Families & Healthy Children

- Variety of family support funding streams for family resource centers, family support, family violence prevention and afterschool programs
- Combined funding into one RFA for two year cycles for family support programs
 - Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs (CBCAP) - \$875,000
 - Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) - \$2.1 for family support and strengthening programs
 - State Family Resource Center - \$500,000

Evidence-Based Practice and Programs

- What's BEST for children and families?
- Increased focus on outcomes
- Increased focus on evidence based and evidence informed programs from all funding streams
- Federal requirements legislated through CAPTA
- NC Institute of Medicine Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention emphasizing evidence-based practice

Changing Policy and Funding

DSS's response to recommendations from the Task on Child Abuse Prevention

- Require 80% of RFA funding go to evidence-based and promising programs
- 20% of funding for emerging practices
- Regional training with previously funded family resource centers to support shift
- Investing in scaffolding for Incredible Years and limited support for Strengthening Families
- Investing in statewide training in identifying and choosing evidence-based practices

The Alliance

- Intentional planning process to identify priorities
- Focused on common outcomes (funding the same things)
- Partnerships between the public and private sectors to fund the best interventions possible for children and families
- Connections to maximize funding and impact (not duplicating)
- Easier process for communities (shared protocols, tools, RFAs)

The Big Picture

- A fundamental shift in how we deliver services (charity perspective versus an investment in our future perspective)
- A little money here and there for underfunded family strengthening programs doesn't work and in fact may harm families
- Capacity-building approach needed in shifting policy and funding to evidence-based programs
- Shifting is a process that won't happen overnight and will require attention and resources (long-term commitment)

More Considerations

- Choosing a few effective programs and doing them well is better than doing many programs without sufficient implementation support.
- Implementation support (“scaffolding”) will require additional resources but the better outcomes translate into long-term cost savings
- We know from research that community-based agencies will always need support in implementation
- Evaluation is not an “add-on” but a fundamental piece of getting better outcomes and implementing evidence-based programs

Alliance Success

- Key Ingredients

- Shared vision
- Relationship building
- Once we commit, we're committed
- Being accountable as Funders
- Pooling of resources to support scaffolding, staffing, etc.

Safe and Healthy Children, Families and Communities



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