

# Becoming a Prevention-Focused System: Conversation With National Experts



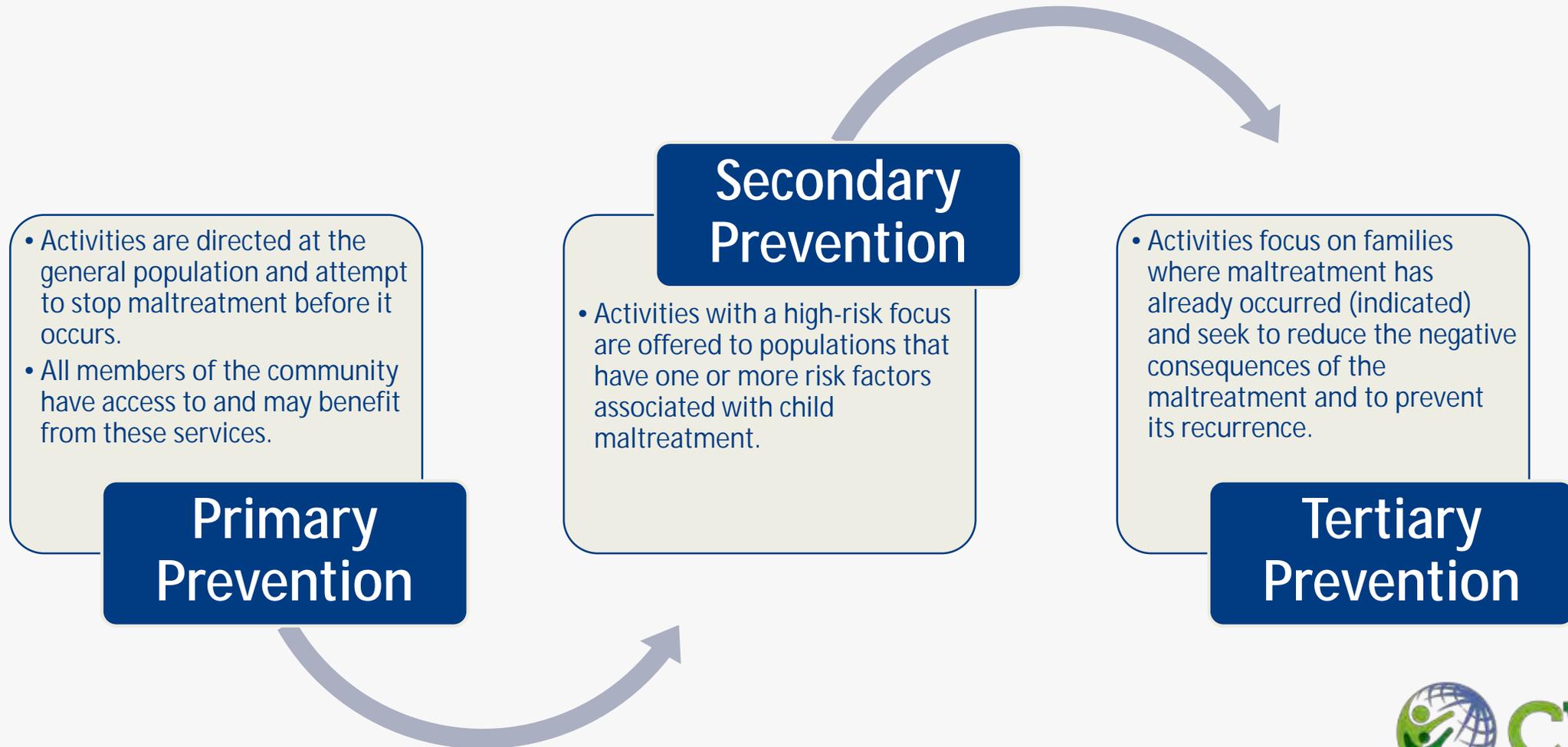
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Capacity Building  
CENTER FOR STATES



# Framework for Prevention of Child Maltreatment



# Prevention: A New Way Forward



Jerry Milner  
Children's Bureau



Capacity Building  
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# Effects of the Current Crisis on the Child Welfare System

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak has exposed weaknesses in the child welfare system:

- „ Lack of flexibility with federal funding
- „ Limited access to basic needs, including food, housing, and employment
- „ Lack of modernization in the judicial system
- „ Youth aging out of the foster care system without the permanency of family
- „ Limited access to technology and technological equipment
- „ Insufficient time with parents for youth in foster care

Let's think about a new way forward in child welfare.



# Conversation With National Experts



**Michael Cull**  
University of Kentucky

**Jerry Milner**  
Children's Bureau

**Amelia Franck Meyer**  
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**Vivek Sankaran**  
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# Overview of Alia Innovation Cohort

Features  
family and  
community  
codesign

Works with  
lived  
experience  
guides

Includes  
Alumni  
Innovation  
Fellow on  
staff

# Examples of Codesigning With Families

Use an empathy-first, compassion-first approach.

Focus on concrete needs for families.

Provide universal access and accommodations in child welfare.

Ask families what supports they need and deliver those solutions.

# Strategies From Public Health Systems

1

Borrowing practices from industries outside of child welfare to advance safety and reliability

2

Creating a culture of safety that supports the workforce

3

Using Safety Science to review child welfare fatalities

# Collaboration Examples Across Systems

## National Partnership for Child Safety

- „ Working with 18 jurisdictions and health departments to develop a systems theoretical approach for reviewing child fatalities
- „ Sharing a standard set of data across the partnership
- „ Providing support through a peer-to-peer learning process.



# Action Steps for Stronger Community Collaboration

Engage with families who have lived experience in the child welfare system.

Partner with related systems, including education and public health, to problem solve together as a community.

Leverage local resources and supports for intervention.

Build trust and relationships with partners through transparency.

# Partnering With the Judicial System

1

Courts and attorneys can begin working collaboratively with community partners and families to strategize about prevention efforts.

2

Judiciary can begin to identify gaps in the system.

3

Judiciary can lead within communities and work collaboratively with community partners to address service gaps.

# Moving Prevention Work Forward

1. Invest in the business of family strengthening.

2. Encourage thinking broadly and engage in system thinking.

3. Encourage judges and attorneys to embrace prevention.

# 1. Invest in the Business of Family Strengthening

Reframe  
the  
questions  
to keep  
families  
safely  
together:

What can we do to remove the danger instead of the child?

Can someone in the child's family, or someone the child knows, move into the home to remove the danger?

Can the caregiver and the child live with a relative or fictive kin?

Can the child move temporarily to live with a relative or fictive kin?

## 2. Encourage Thinking Broadly and Engage in System Thinking

1

Do not fear the inherent complexity of systems.

2

Focus on understanding how all the system components work together, not the individual components themselves.

3

Ask questions to dig deeply into systemic problems.

# 3. Encourage Judges and Attorneys to Embrace Prevention

Help lead and own prevention efforts.

Create systems that help families resolve concrete needs before entering the legal system.

Consider the court as a prevention agency.

# Becoming a Prevention-Focused System

Articulate a clear vision around the importance of family.

Lift up the voices of parents, children, and youth.

Proactively support a transition in the way we serve children and families.

# Hearing From Youth and Families



**Elliott Hinkle**  
Capacity Building Center for States



# Prevention: Our Perspective



# Up Next!

**Thank you for your participation today!**

Please be sure to explore the virtual Exhibit Hall, Resource Gallery, and Networking Lounge between sessions.

**The next session will begin at 11:15 a.m. Eastern Time.**

