

# Developing and Measuring the Success of a Comprehensive Prevention Framework



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Capacity Building  
CENTER FOR STATES



# Prevention Frameworks: Introduction



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# Objectives for Today's Session

1. **Learn** strategies for developing comprehensive community prevention frameworks across all levels of prevention.
2. **Explore** how systems within the prevention framework work together to provide services for children and families and how the impact can be analyzed and measured.
3. **Recognize** how the prevention framework can be integrated into the continuous quality improvement (CQI) system.
4. **Identify** strategies for collaborating with families, youth, and community partners in the understanding, sharing, and use of prevention outcomes data throughout the CQI system.



# Prevention Frameworks: Reimagining Child Welfare



**Amelia Franck Meyer**  
Alia



Capacity Building  
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# Innovative Prevention Systems

**In 2017:**

- Alia brought in partners to design a new way to work in child welfare called an “UnSystem.”

**In 2018:**

- Alia collaborated with 5 jurisdictions to build a prevention system (representing 14 counties and 4 states).

**At the end of  
Year One:**

- Jurisdictions reported a 12 percent reduction in foster care placements and 37 percent reduction in congregate care.

Source: Alia, “UnSystem Innovation Cohort,” 2020.



# Measuring Safety and Risk

•Are children safer at home despite reports of abuse and neglect?

Do the rates of harm differ between foster care and congregate care?

What is the rate of harm in residential centers?

What is the general rate of harm for children in the community?

# How to Measure the Things That Matter Most

- Community conditions that help children and families thrive

- Social determinants of child and family well-being

- Levels of risk in various settings

# Prevention Frameworks: Collaborating to Achieve and Measure Success



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District of Columbia, Child and Family Services Agency

**Sharafdeen Ibraheem**

District of Columbia, Child and Family Services Agency



# Four Pillars Agenda: Values-Based

•Front Door

Temporary  
Safe Haven

Well-Being

Exit to  
Permanence

# Families First DC

## •Establishes 10 Family Success Centers in targeted areas in the community

- Areas were selected based on social determinants of health data, violence prevention priority areas, and substantiated reports on child abuse and neglect.

## Offers a neighborhood-based, whole family approach to provide upstream, primary prevention services and neighborhood-driven resources

- The program focuses on evidence-based programs and utilizes extensive CQI processes and systems.

## Utilizes case management and motivational interviewing to build relationships with families

## Includes an intentional planning period prior to implementation of Family Success Centers

# Building the IT Infrastructure: Three Challenges

1

- Allowing for flexibility for changes in the system

2

- Accommodating a long-term plan to implement a comprehensive child welfare information system

3

- Meeting the Administration for Children and Families requirements for system design

# Identifying Requirements With Program Staff and Providers

## •Functional Requirements

•Implement changes in legacy system (FACES) to minimize disruptions in case management

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## New Requirements

Build new tool (Community Portal) outside of existing system using modern technology

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## Application Program Interface

Coordinate updates between legacy system and new tool

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# Prevention Frameworks: Legal Perspective



**Kelly Wagner**

Michigan State Court Administrative Office

**Lynn Bullard**

Van Buren County Court, Michigan



# Michigan Prevention Pilot

## •The pilot supports prevention in the legal and judicial communities.

- The pilot prevents children from being removed from home and prolonged family separation when children do need to be removed from home.
- Michigan developed this strategy as a result of the 2018 Child and Family Services Review.

## The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was developed through joint planning with stakeholders.

- Hosted 4-day meeting in 2019 facilitated by the Capacity Building Center for Courts
- Invited multiple stakeholders to participate, including parents, youth, Court Appointed Special Advocates, community providers, and judicial and legal entities
- Raised quality legal representation as a systemic issue



# Van Buren County Court Pilot Project

**Goal: Improve outcomes for children by avoiding removal or reaching permanency**

**Changing court-  
appointed attorney  
contracts**

**Adding a social  
worker to the  
family's legal team**

**Providing ancillary  
legal services to  
remove barriers to  
permanency**

# Overview of System Changes

## •Changing court-appointed attorney contracts

- Attorneys are now compensated at an hourly rate.
- Attorneys must complete mandatory training hours.
- All attorneys must apply American Bar Association standards for parent and child legal representation.

## Adding a social worker to the family's legal team

- The social worker is assigned before or after the petition.
- The social worker can establish a rapport with parents and aid in problem-solving (for example, parent-child visitation).
- The social worker serves as an advocate for parents (for example, can identify a parent's legal need and make a referral).

## Providing ancillary legal services to remove barriers to permanency

- Services are provided before or after the petition.
- Attorneys assigned to these cases are compensated at an hourly rate
- Services may include applying for disability benefits, obtaining personal protection orders, helping a parent get a driver's license restored, or filing for a divorce or custody action.



# Prevention Frameworks: Panel Discussion



# Strategies for Engaging Families and Youth

1

•Engage youth and families as part of the planning process.

2

•Collect and use feedback from youth, families, and community members to guide programming and practice.

3

•Assign a “lived experience” guide alongside a professional guide to support every step of the design.

# Strategies to Engage Community Partners

- Identify the intended change to help gain buy-in from community members.

- Work with community-based organizations and families directly to design new ways of work.

- Shift the mindset within agencies and communities.

# Strategies to Engage Community Partners in System Design

- Foster a shared vision with partners for engaging youth and families.

- Involve individuals with lived experience to provide feedback on system design and participate in user acceptance testing.

# Measuring the Success of the Michigan Court Pilot

**1. The team is currently developing data points and looking at the following information:**

**Removal of barriers for families**

**Prevention of removal of children and youth**

**Timeline for reunification with families**

# Impact of Tele-Court

- Technology has made it easier for parents to attend hearings.

- Tele-court has removed barriers such as transportation and child care.

# Using Evidenced-Informed Practices

- Continue to measure, evaluate, and use feedback to make adjustments.

- Involve community partners and individuals with lived experience to provide input into measurement design.

# Challenges and Benefits to Using Evidenced-Based Practices

1

• Investing in the CQI system

2

• Engaging network providers in quarterly meetings to share data

3

• Facilitating business process meetings to share information from the field with members of the IT system

# Up Next!

**Thank you for your participation today!**

**Please return to the theater to join us for the Closing Plenary  
that will begin at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

