

What Is Urgent?

Taking the First Steps Toward Change



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Advancing Prevention Services



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Nebraska Children and Families Foundation



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR STATES



History of Prevention Services in Nebraska

1

•Founded Nebraska's Children and Family Foundation in 1996 as a public and private entity

2

Funded strategies for home visitation and mediation

3

Established a learning community with community partners and Departments of Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health, and Public Health

Nebraska's Reach

Nebraska's Children and Family Foundation is reaching over 20,000 families.

Fewer than 10 children entered care.

The work is guided by community partners.

Six Guiding Principles

**1. Authentic Youth
and Family
Engagement**

**2. Collaboration and
Collective Impact**

**3. Promotive and
Protective Factor
Framework**

**4. Two Generation
Approach**

**5. Race, Ethnicity,
Equity, and Inclusion**

**6. Primary Prevention
Principles**

Authentic Engagement

1

• True engagement lets children and families be the leaders.

2

• Professionals letting go of control and ego creates space for sharing ownership of outcomes.

3

• The parent and community café model features organized conversations with parents and youth supported by leadership.

Strengths-Based Approach

1

•Young Adult and Families Thrive curriculum and training were developed based on promotive and protective factors.

2

It is important to recognize that all people have strengths.

3

Focusing on strengths helps foster hope.

Aligning Prevention Efforts



Andrew Crawford

Bedford County Department of Social Services, Virginia

Kristin Zagar

Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS)



Virginia DSS Prevention Alignment Approach

State-supervised, county-administered state

120 local departments of social services

Virginia League of Social Services Executives, comprised of local county directors

Virginia League of Social Services Executives

Support local agency
leadership

Advocate for
agencies, staff, and
families

Collaborate with
state partners and
other stakeholders

Alignment of Prevention Services

1

• Accelerated prevention alignment due to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

2

• Used the National Governors Association's three-branch approach to define and align a shared prevention vision

3

• Embraced by youth, foster parents, courts, judges, Court Improvement Program, legislature, and state partners

Virginia's Comprehensive Strategic Plan

Following agreement on the comprehensive prevention process, Virginia actively aligned outcomes, strategic planning, and implementation efforts:

- ▶ Identified goals and outcomes focused on prevention, well-being, safety, and permanency
- ▶ Considered federal and state priorities, such as the Child and Family Services Plan, Child and Family Services Review, Performance Improvement Plan, and FFPSA
- ▶ Identified implementation strategies and change management approaches

Virginia developed a comprehensive strategic plan that serves as a road map for the next 5 years.



Partnership in Bedford County, Virginia

Bedford County Department of Social Services collaborated with the local public school system to provide primary prevention services:

- ▶ Combined funds to hire two new employees for the Department of Social Services
- ▶ Was partially funded by the local public school system to work in local elementary schools
- ▶ Engaged families at the front end to help identify support services
- ▶ Helped to decrease families' needs for additional services in the future



Prevention in Juvenile Courts



Judge Trent Favre

Hancock County Youth Court, Mississippi



Snapshot of Hancock County, Mississippi

2018

- 389 children and youth in care

2020

- 72 children and youth in care

Role of Judiciary in Ensuring Systemic Collaboration

Proceed with
compassion and
empathy to give
families hope

Support team
building and
collaboration

Help manage
relationships
between
stakeholders

Celebrate
accomplishments
and growth

Set clear
expectations for
policy and
philosophy

Keys to Growth in Hancock County, Mississippi

**Created “safe zones”
for admitting and
correcting mistakes**

**Built relationships with
child protective services,
court appointed special
advocates, and
community partners**

**Engaged in
communication with
partners outside of
court through
monthly meetings**

**Conducted ongoing
training on trauma,
safety, risk assessment,
and Trust-Based
Relational Intervention**

What Is Urgent? A Discussion



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Capacity Building Center for States

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National Native Children's Trauma Center, University of Montana



What Is Urgent?

**Building prevention-
focused systems**

Strengthening families

**Effectively
implementing the
Indian Child Welfare Act
(ICWA)**

**Collaborating with
community partners**

How Can We Support Collaboration?

**Authentically engage
with children and
families**

**Honor tribal
sovereignty and
culture**

**Ensure
communication
across the system
and with partners**

Where Do We Start?

Meet children and families where they are.

Remember that families are the experts on their case.

Meaningfully engage with tribal leaders and communities at a personal, professional, and cultural level.

Recognize the goal of the child welfare system to support and strengthen families.

Roll Up Your Sleeves



Dee Bonnick

Capacity Building Center for States

Elliott Hinkle

Capacity Building Center for States



Roll Up Your Sleeves Sessions: Part 2

- ▶ **Purpose:** Develop an action plan to make meaningful changes in your work.
- ▶ **Tool:** Download the "Roll Up Your Sleeves Part 2: Action Planning" worksheet located in the handouts window.
- ▶ **Strategy:** Use the worksheet as a guide to develop your action plan and share ideas and questions in the chat.
- ▶ **Timeframe:** 30 minutes

CWVE 2020
Child Welfare Virtual Expo
Strengthening Families Through Prevention and Collaboration

Roll Up Your Sleeves: Action Planning Session

This Roll Up Your Sleeves Action Planning Session challenges you to take what you just learned **over the course of the day** and what you brainstormed in the previous "Roll up Your Sleeves Facilitated Discussion," and develop an action plan to make meaningful changes in your work. Using the Action Planning Template below as a guide, consider how you can use the resources, tools, and lessons learned throughout the 2020 Child Welfare Virtual Expo. Write your answers in the worksheet or share them in the chat.

To be completed during the 30-minute "Roll Up Your Sleeves Action Planning Session."

What steps can you take to amplify prevention strategies that are working well in your organization?

Consider the prevention strategies identified in the "Roll Up Your Sleeves Facilitated Discussion." What steps can you take to amplify these strategies?		
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What gaps do you foresee in the amplification of your current strategies?

	Partners	Tools
Consider what partners, tools, support, and technical assistance you need to implement next steps.		

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Determine Next Steps

What steps can you take to amplify prevention strategies that are working well in your organization?

Consider Gaps

What gaps do you foresee in the amplification of your current strategies?

Identify Barriers and Solutions

Is your organization ready to implement new strategies? What are the perceived barriers and solutions?

Support Effective Implementation

What did you learn in today's event that could be leveraged to support implementing these strategies?

Thank You!

Thank you for participating in the 2020 Child Welfare Virtual Expo!

Be sure to stop by the virtual Exhibit Hall, Resource Gallery, and Networking Lounge before you leave. Please save resources to your virtual briefcase to download after the event.

Share your feedback by completing a quick survey before you leave today.

