



CWVE 2020

Child Welfare Virtual Expo

Strengthening Families Through Prevention and Collaboration

Becoming a Prevention-Focused System: Conversation With National Experts

The opening plenary discusses the importance of primary prevention in child welfare; the public systems approach to prevention; and examples of how states have successfully implemented prevention programs. The session highlights the need for involving multiple voices and partnerships in the development and implementation of prevention plans, as well as the important role of courts in prevention. Speakers also discuss strategies for developing a robust prevention continuum while continuing to improve services provided to children and families as the needs of the in-care population change following successful implementation of prevention-focused systems.

Session Resources

1. [Alia UnSystem Innovation Cohort](#)

The UnSystem Innovation Cohort is Alia's 3-year commitment to guiding a set of select agencies through an unprecedented, whole-system UnSystem transformation. After a year of practice—with mostly shifts in agency mindset and no additional funding—there was a 12 percent reduction in the number of youth in foster care and a 37 percent reduction of the number of youth in congregate care. This case study was written specifically for other leaders, with concrete implementations and advice from Cohort leaders.

2. [Transforming Child Welfare Systems](#)

This brief describes the basic elements and benefits of implementing a population-based approach to prevention.

3. [Realizing the Promise of Family First](#)

This resource highlights the benefits and opportunities associated with implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act. It focuses on the opportunity to rebalance the child welfare system by serving more children and families in their own homes.

4. [Protective Capacities and Protective Factors: Common Ground for Protecting Children and Strengthening Families](#)

Child welfare practitioners use varied but complementary frameworks for assessing child safety and working with families. A shared understanding of definitions and common ground can help strengthen consistency in services for families.

5. [Coordinating Prevention Services in the Community](#)

This podcast from the Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative explores how a child welfare agency works with partners to ensure services focus on prevention in alignment with the Family First Prevention Services Act. In episode 6 of the podcast series, leaders from the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency and its community partners describe strategies to coordinate service planning and delivery across the prevention continuum, be culturally responsive to the community, and provide seamless services to families.