



Collaboration Strategies for Improved Outcomes for Children and Families

CBCAP/PSSF Grantees Meeting

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What we will cover

- Prevention
 - Definition
 - Continuum
- CBCAP Program
 - Areas for Collaboration
- Prevention and the CFSR/PIP
- Role of the Regional Office
- State Example – Minnesota
- Discussion and Q and A



What is Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect?

- For the child welfare system, prevention usual means prevention of reoccurrence of abuse or neglect or prevention of removal once a child and family are involved with the child welfare system. It can also means prevention of a child returning to care/being removed from their caregiver.
- For programs such as the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funded programs, prevention services are targeted towards prevention of child abuse and neglect prior to it happening or prior to any involvement with the child welfare system.

Continuum of Prevention

- To keep children safe in their own home and communities, a full range or continuum of prevention of child abuse and neglect programs/services are needed. The range would need to include the following services/programs:
 - For the general population that would focus on preventing child abuse/neglect from taking place:
 - Outreach and public education services—highlighting the risk factors, where to get support, reporting of potential abuse/neglect, etc.
 - Family support services—available for all children and families.

Continuum of Prevention cont'd

- To support children and families and to reduce the risk:
 - These would be targeted to build on protective factors and reduce risk factors for the parents as well as the child and reduce the potential harm for the child.
 - To educate the public.
- To help ameliorate the impact on the child and family if child abuse or neglect did occur.
- To support parents and children to prevent the reoccurrence of abuse and/or neglect.
- To support parents and children to prevent the child from coming into care.

Continuum of Prevention cont'd

- Children and families who are or might be involved with the child welfare system, states/local communities have a wide variety of needs and therefore would require a wide variety of prevention types of services for the child/youth as well as the parents and/or family members beyond those aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect such as:
 - substance abuse prevention/intervention services and support.
 - mental health prevention/intervention services and supports.
 - domestic violence prevention/intervention.

Why a Continuum of Prevention?

- Services are needed for families to be successful in their communities. Keep in mind that not all families that experience difficulties end up having contact with the child welfare system
- Services are needed to have improved outcomes for children and families involved with the child welfare system
- In first round of CFSRs one of the most common services gaps identified was prevention services (this included services needed to keep children safe in their own homes).

Why a Continuum of Prevention? Cont'd

- States are involved in a number of prevention activities but often are not coordinated/linked.
- Many of the prevention programs/services fall under various federal programs or utilize local, state, and/or foundation funds.
- Most professionals agree that a continuum would consist of three levels of child abuse and neglect prevention services: primary prevention, secondary prevention, and tertiary prevention.

Continuum of Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Services

Primary or Universal	Secondary or Selected	Tertiary or Indicated
<p>Primary prevention consists of activities that are targeted toward the community at large. These activities are meant to impact families prior to any allegations of abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>Secondary prevention includes activities targeted to vulnerable families that have one or more risk factors, including families with substance abuse, teen parents, parents of special needs children, single parents, and low income families.</p>	<p>Tertiary prevention consists of activities targeted to families that have confirmed or unconfirmed child abuse and neglect reports. These families have already demonstrated the need for intervention, either with or without court supervision.</p> <p>These are families that qualify for services under child welfare programs.</p> <p>These are families where there is an open case.</p>

CBCAP Target Populations

- **Vulnerable families** at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Special focus on **specific populations**:
 - Parents (all, new, teens, etc.).
 - Parents/children with disabilities.
 - Racial and ethnic minorities.
 - Members of underserved or underrepresented groups.
 - Fathers.
- Includes activities for **General Population**.

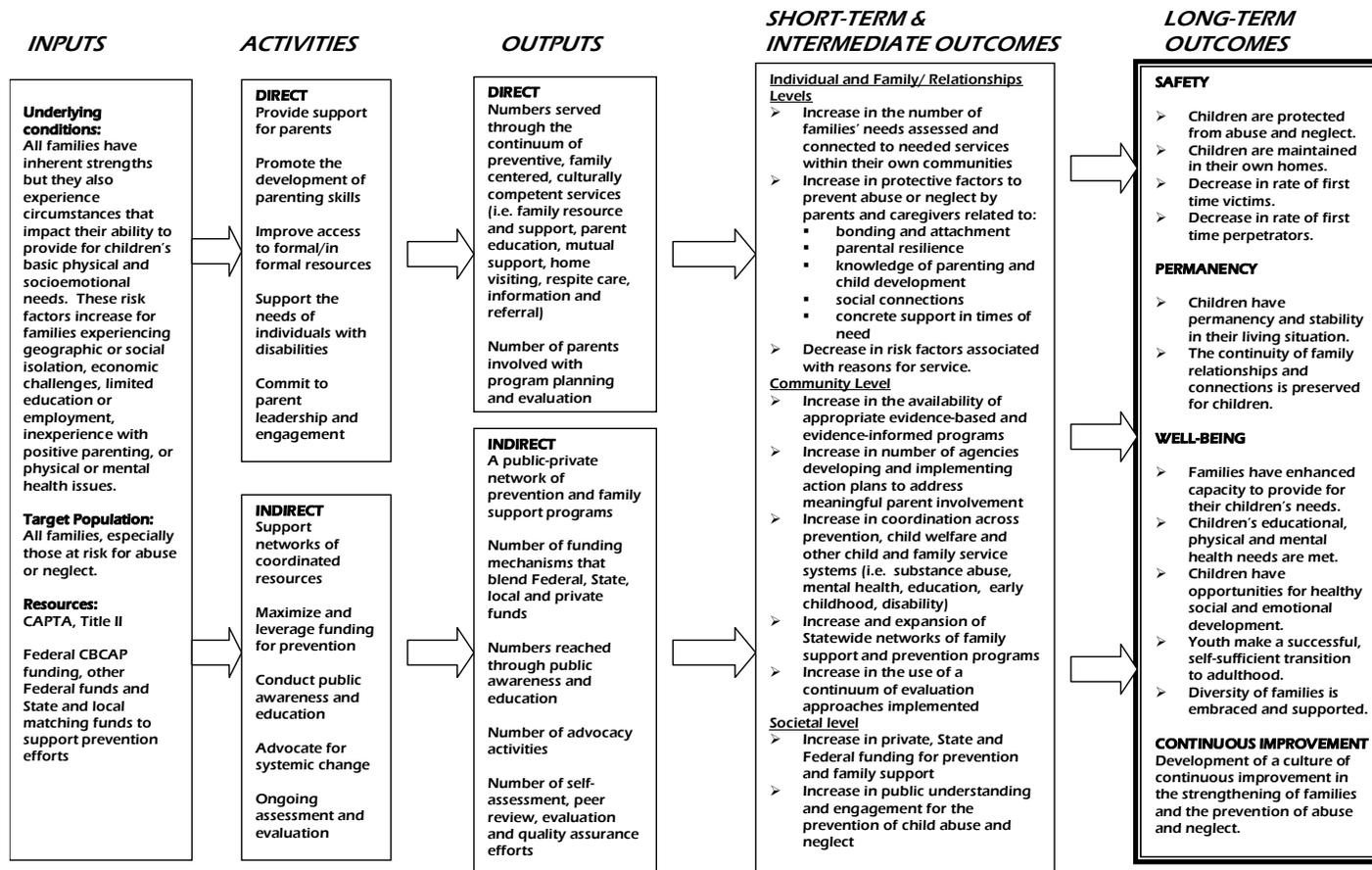
Authorized Activities under CBCAP

- Provide **comprehensive supports for parents.**
- Promote **development of parenting skills**, especially young parents or those with young children.
- **Improve family access** to formal and informal resources.
- **Support needs of parents with disabilities** through respite or other activities.
- **Provide referrals** to early health and development services.
- Promote **meaningful parent leadership.**

CBCAP Conceptual Framework

CBCAP CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK (revised 10-19-06)

The purposes of the CBCAP program are: (1) to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, and enhance, and where appropriate to network, initiatives aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect; (2) to support networks of coordinated resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect; and (3) to foster understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.



Collaboration with CBCAP Programs

- Prevention Plan
- Needs Assessment
- Collaboration - Partnerships
- Connections to networks in the community
- Parent Leadership/engagement
- Involvement in System Reform
- Leveraging Funding

Collaboration Strategies with CBCAP Programs

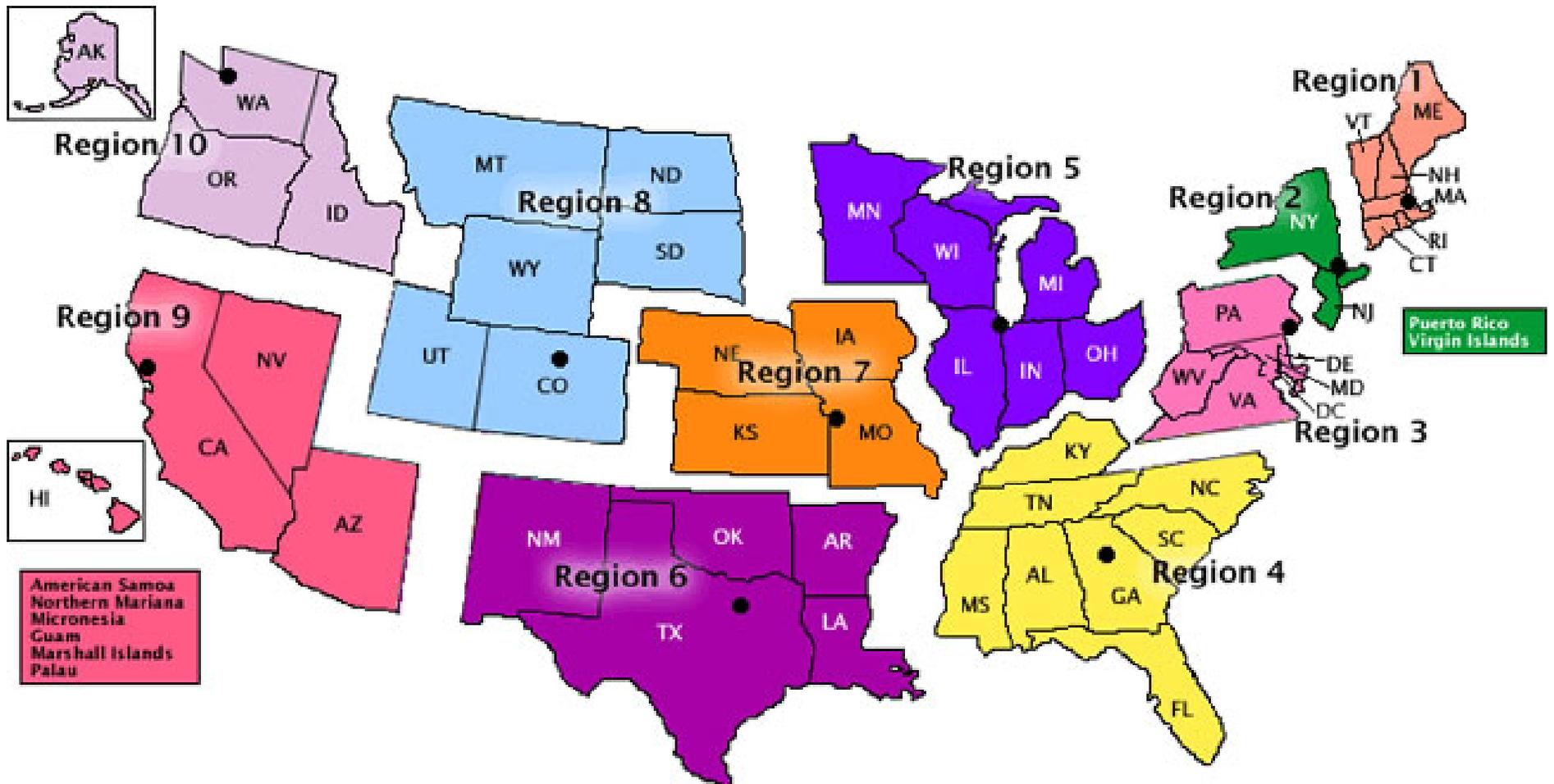
- Coordination between the CBCAP programs and their CFSR/ PIP/ CFSP process by:
 - Prevention representation on PIP workgroups and/or participation on Statewide advisory committees for the CFSR/PIP/CFSP process.
 - Identifying CBCAP funding priorities or other activities based on the findings of the CFSR/PIP.
- Fiscal and programmatic coordination between Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program and CBCAP.
- Blended funding pools, which include PSSF, TANF, and Early Intervention Program, Part C₁₄

Prevention and the CFSR/PIP

Role of CB Regional Offices

- Supports CBCAP Lead Agencies in collaboration with OCAN and FRIENDS. “CB RO” specialists should be experts in the issues and dynamics of your State’s Child Welfare system.
- Identifies areas of collaboration among Regional & State CBCAP, State CW Agency, and Court Improvement grantees.
- Identifies areas in Regions & States in which CBCAP intersects with (and is distinguished from) Safe and Stable Families, other title IV-B programs, and the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR)
- Encourages collaboration among other Regional & State ACF/HHS programs (Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care, Child Support, Runaway/Homeless Youth, Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, reducing childhood obesity and other prevention initiatives
- Participates in Regional & State interdepartmental initiatives including reducing homelessness with HUD, positive youth development with DOL, and immigrant families with DHS/ICE

Children's Bureau Regional Offices



● = Locations of Regional Offices/Regional Administrators

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Minnesota's Strategies for Improving Outcomes through Child Welfare/CBCAP Coordination

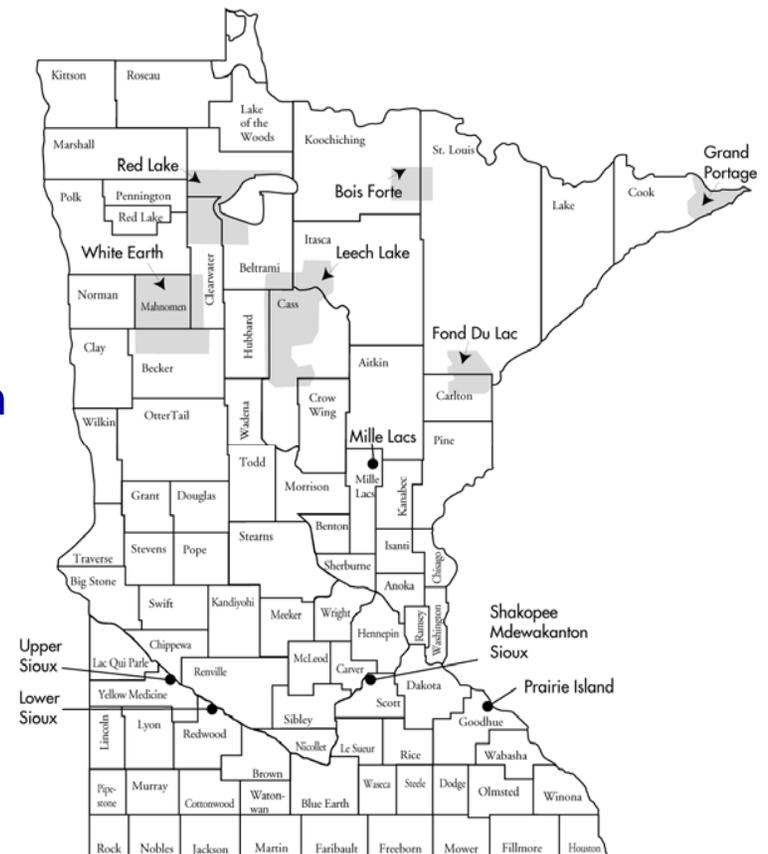


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Minnesota

- State-supervised/
County-administered (87 counties)
- Eleven federally recognized Tribes
- State with highest share of local property taxes for child welfare
- Kids Count rates MN within top 5 on child well-being measures
- Differential Response Child Protection Continuum, incorporating Structured Decision Making System
- Disproportionately involves poor, single mothers and their children; particularly families of color
 - American Indian and African American families largest overrepresented populations



Minnesota's Child Welfare Findings

- In 2007
 - 18,348 reports of child maltreatment were accepted for a response involving 24,139 children
 - 59% of all accepted reports received a Family Assessment Response (10,934); 41% received an Investigative Response
 - Of those receiving an Investigative Response, 50% were substantiated/determined (4,370 out of 7,414 reports)
 - 71% of all determined reports involved child neglect
 - Most prevalent family condition documented in neglect findings: parenting issues, then mental health
 - 4.5% of children experienced repeat maltreatment

MN Differential Response Continuum

Family Assessment

- Response for less serious cases
 - No determination of maltreatment
 - Comprehensive
 - Strength-based community-focused
 - Enhances family stability
 - Focus is on safety through engagement
- Flexibility is key
 - Reports may move between the responses as needed

Traditional Investigation

- Response for substantial child endangerment cases
 - Did maltreatment occur?
 - Are child protective services needed?
- Incident based with a focus on fact finding
- Forensic in nature; coordinated with law enforcement
- May be perceived as intrusive and adversarial by family

Pilot Programs

CTF-Supported

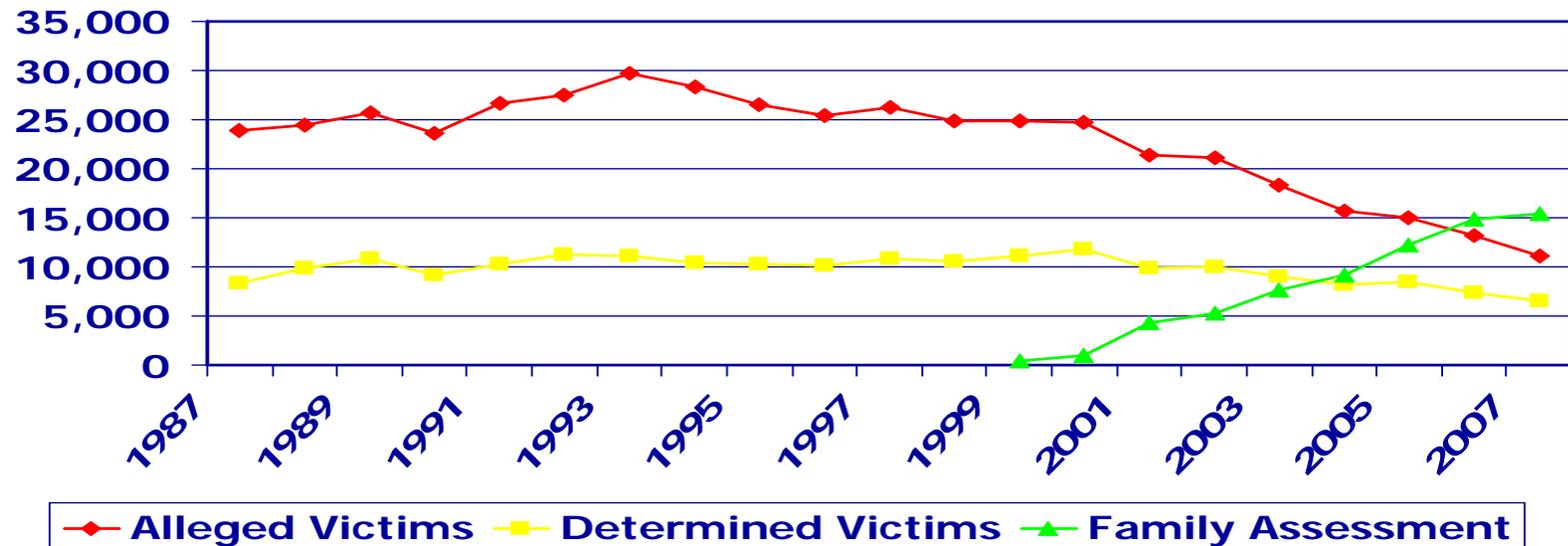
PARENT SUPPORT OUTREACH PROJECT

- Public/private partnership to pilot/study impact of early intervention on families at risk of child maltreatment.
 - 38 pilot counties
 - Connect screened out families with young children to community-based family support services.
 - Intended to impact and decrease disproportionate number of families of color reported to child protection.
- CTF supervisor participated in the selection of pilot project counties and in selection of research firm to carry out independent evaluation.
- Expected that CTF will contribute to success of the Parent Support Outreach Program, and that findings of the pilot project will help inform future planning for CTF.

MFIP/FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROJECT

- Three-year pilot program involving 8 counties to offer voluntary family support services and coordinated case management for Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Food Stamp eligible families.
- Intended to eliminate/reduce risk factors of child maltreatment, improve family stability, and improve child well-being in areas of physical and mental health and school success. MFIP is state's primary economic assistance program for low-income families. MFIP and Food Stamp eligible families experience numerous risk factors at high incident levels, including poverty, child disability, parent disability, substance abuse and mental illness.
- Pilot targets families with at least one child age 10 or under who is at risk of poor developmental outcomes due to poverty and associated risks.

Trends in MN Child Maltreatment Number of Victims



Child and Family Service Review

- **Purpose** - Enables federal Children's Bureau to:
 - Ensure conformity with Federal child welfare requirements
 - Determine what is happening to children/families in child welfare services
 - Assist States to enhance their capacity to help children/families achieve positive outcomes
- **Goal**- Help States improve child welfare services and achieve following outcomes for families/children who receive services:
 - **Safety**
 - Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
 - Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate
 - **Permanency**
 - Children have permanency and stability in their living situations
 - Continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for families
 - **Family and Child Well-Being**
 - Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
 - Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
 - Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs

MN CFSR

- Minnesota was one of the first states to undergo federal CFSR and by July 2004 successfully met requirements of Program Improvement Plan (PIP).
- Fall 2007, second round of federal CFSR of Minnesota.
 - Statewide assessment phase and onsite review conducted.
 - Children's Trust Fund was represented on department's core planning and preparation team for CFSR, participated at state and county review sites, and involved in PIP development.
- PIP submitted in August 2008, still waiting approval. (Only 2 state PIPs approved so far out of 29 reviews)

Key Findings

- MN performance impacted by:
 - Older youth, with disabilities, in foster care
 - Limited identification, engagement and provision of services to fathers
- MN system did not have major gaps in practice or primary service delivery but rather lacked consistency across state in these areas

Primary PIP Strategies

- Enhance capacities of families to care for their children
- Promote child safety and well-being across the life of the case
- Locate and support a stable family for every youth in foster care
- Promote quality case worker supervision

State Child Welfare Agency

- DHS has responsibility for:
 - Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
 - Program Improvement Plan (PIP)
 - Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP).
- MN adopted federal CFSR review process and brought it to local county level.
These MNCFSR Reviews are conducted by Quality Assurance Unit.
- As part of county self-assessment process in preparation for review, county describes membership and activities of their Child Abuse Prevention Council, and how council meets statutory requirement to submit a plan for prevention of child abuse that includes an assessment and rank order of needed programs and services.
- Quality Assurance teams discuss how information is incorporated and used in agency's planning and operations to achieve improved child safety, permanency and well-being outcomes.

State Child Welfare Agency

- For each review, the following documents provide data relevant to each county's performance:
 - Self assessment:
 - Systemic factors that are key to providing child welfare services
 - County performance on national standard indicators
 - County-specific safety, permanency and well-being data
 - MnCFSR report: Compiles detailed information from self assessment, case reviews and stakeholder interviews and identifies areas of strength and areas needing improvement.
 - PIP prepared by county agencies to address areas needing improvement.

Minnesota Children's Trust Fund Mission



The Children's Trust Fund works in partnership to serve as a catalyst to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening all Minnesota families and communities.

Organizational Structure

- Children's Trust Fund: state-designated Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program
- Embedded within Child Safety and Permanency Division (child protection/child welfare/children's research)
- Within Child and Family Services Administration (child welfare, child care, child support, homelessness, TANF, community action programs)
- Within Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) (child and family services, health care, mental health, chemical health, disabilities, and aging services)



Key Internal Partnerships

- American Indian Child Welfare Initiative
- Child Disability/Part C of IDEA
- Child Mortality Review Panel
- Children's Research
- Child Safety and Permanency
- Citizen Review Panels
- Early Childhood Care/Development
- Quality Assurance
- Social Service Information System
- Training System

CTF External Partners

- Minnesota Fathers & Families Network
- Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting
- Minnesota Department of Health
 - Family Home Visiting
 - Minnesota Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
 - Sexual Violence Prevention
- Minnesota Department of Education
- PACER – Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights
- Parent Information and Resources Sharing Network
- Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota/Circle of Parents
- Sexual Violence Prevention Action Council
- Strong Foundations Coalition
- Zero to Three/BUILD/Ready 4K

What CTF Brings to Child Welfare Quality Improvement

- Enhanced community responsiveness through 54 Child Abuse Prevention Councils
- Enhanced service array through community grantees and community initiative networks
- Service array that supports improved safety and well-being outcomes
- Community partnerships that provide resource to state/ local level child protection prevention/intervention efforts
- Access to statewide agency for public awareness and advocacy for children's issues

Additional CTF Roles

- CTF supervisor co-facilitated/authored Minnesota's 2005-2009 Child and Family Service Plan, and continued to monitor progress through annual reporting requirement.
- CTF has specific responsibilities outlined in current CFSP for meeting child safety outcomes:
 - Increase community awareness of child maltreatment
 - Design/develop a child protection response continuum that increases community involvement in prevention and early intervention of child maltreatment.
- CTF works to integrate strengthening families framework and protective factors across the child welfare continuum.

Additional CTF Roles

- Participation in ongoing, county level quality assurance reviews conducted by the Quality Assurance Unit.
- Review of the local Child Abuse Prevention Council's role in providing input on county agency planning and operations as part of the County Self-Assessment Process.
- Description of current CAPC, including rating strength of CAPC's role and identification of barriers or plans for improvement.
- Provision of county self assessments to CTF for identification of successful CAPC's and to determine plans for TA or training.
- Involvement of local CAPC in county self assessment can achieve a stronger, statewide capacity for child abuse prevention efforts.

Example: County Self Assessments

- F 4. Exploratory Issue:

When applicable, describe the membership and activity of the county-based Child Abuse Prevention Council, organized and operating according to state law and policy.

Describe how the council meets the statutory requirement to submit a plan for the prevention of child abuse that includes an assessment and rank ordering of needed programs and services.

Discuss how this information is incorporated and used in the agency's planning and operations to achieve improved safety, permanency and well-being outcomes. Minnesota Statutes, section 119A.14.

Description of County Practice	Exploratory Issue Rating				Barriers Identified/Initial Plans
	1	2	3	4	

CTF Support of CAPCs

- CTF designed an electronic CAPC Services Survey to assist local council members to assess county-wide child abuse prevention resources.
- Survey data compiled into county-specific data/maps for county-by-county comparisons.
- CTF developing plan to address high-need communities through direct outreach and technical assistance to local CAPC's.
- CTF and local CAPCs continue efforts to:
 - Develop future CTF assessments and resources
 - Evaluate range of needed preventive and voluntary early intervention services
 - Help community partners understand and improve adequacy of Strengthening Families and Child Abuse Prevention resources
 - Increase collaboration between service providers and community stakeholders

Other CTF Initiatives

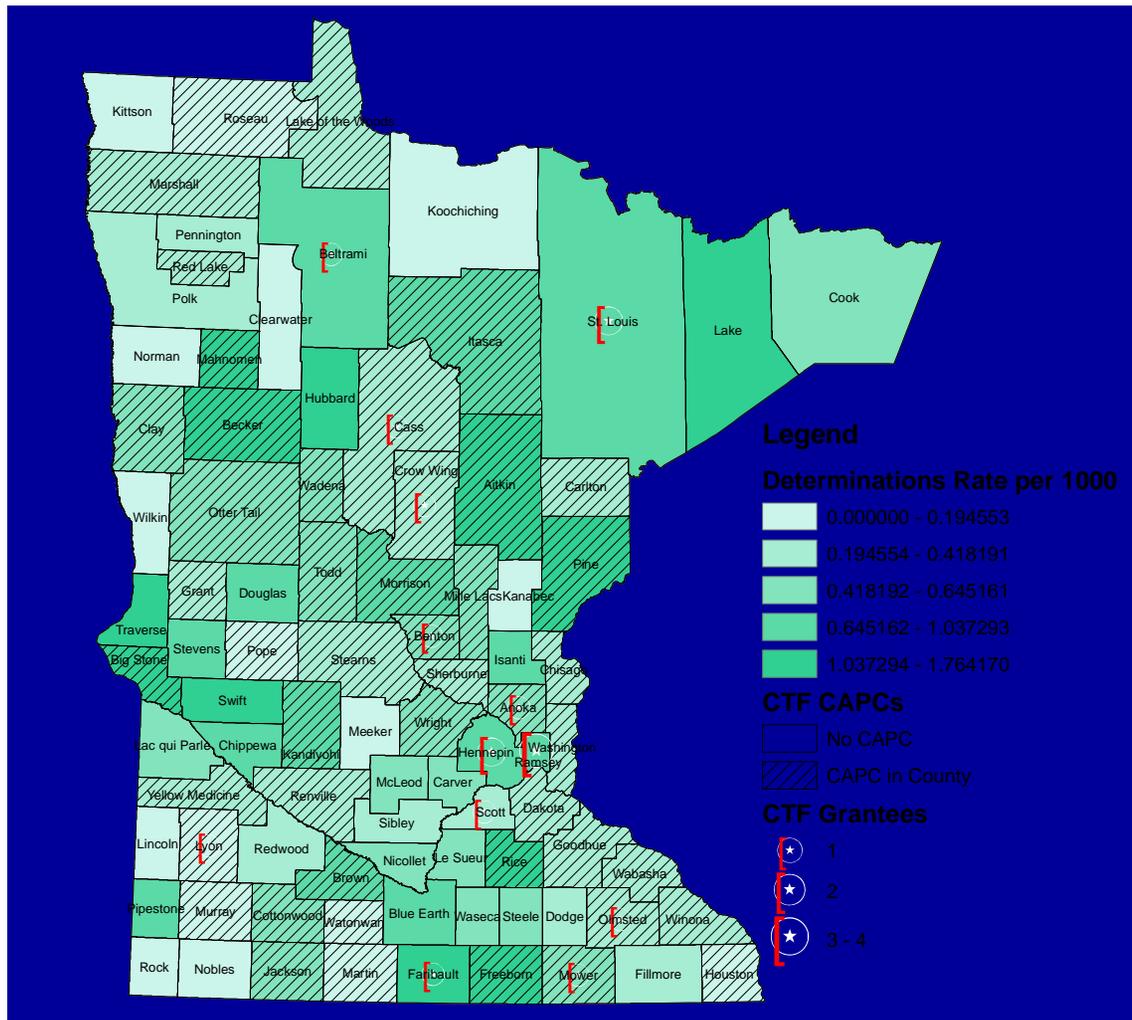
- Statewide and Community Strengthening Families Networks
- Community-Based Strengthening Families Grants
- Strengthening Families/Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities
- Outreach and Support Pilots
- Evaluation

General context of the evaluation

Minnesota CTF:

- Sees itself as “an agent of change”
- Seeks to help systems, organizations, families, and individuals reconceptualize the way they think about child abuse and neglect (i.e., wants them to see it as a complex, systemic issue)
- Wants to know:
 - Are we having an impact?
 - What’s the best way for us to use our resources?

Overlay of need and activities: CAPCs, Grantees and Rates per Thousand Total Determined Child Maltreatment



In Summary

- Child Welfare/CBCAP coordination
 - Expands the capacity of the state's network
 - Provides strategic partnerships, including parent leader partnerships
 - Extends the continuum of services
 - Supports the safety, permanency and well-being of children

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Thank You!

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Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Discussion and Q and A

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