

Successfully Implementing Evidence-Based Programs for Children and Families in North Carolina

A Presentation for the Family Impact Seminar
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Presentation Goals



- What is needed to successfully implement evidence-based programs
- How a group of public and private NC funders are working collaboratively to support successful implementation of EBPs
- Why and how NC funders are shifting resources to proven strategies and supporting effective implementation

Getting Better Results, Part I

“We use untested medical protocols in this clinic, but we are confident that they work.”

- **What** are the practices and programs being implemented?
- They been rigorously evaluated and demonstrated better results than other strategies.
- Fair amount of research on “what” works – program registries, lists of proven practices, etc.

BUT...choosing a program off a list isn't enough.

Getting Better Results, Part II

“We use vaccines proven to prevent childhood diseases in this clinic, and we water them down so we can serve more children.”

- How are evidence-based programs & practices being implemented?
- Implemented with fidelity to the program standards.
- Emerging research on “core drivers of implementation” or the key ingredients for effectiveness

Proven practice + fidelity/quality = Better Results



What Are Key Ingredients for Successful Implementation?*

“The ‘spray and pray approach’ doesn’t work.”

- Assistance with community and agency planning
- Staff Selection
- Pre-Service and In-Service Trainings
- Ongoing Consultation and Coaching
- Program Evaluation Technical Assistance

* See National Implementation Research Network for full review.

Important Questions for NC

- What are the programs/practices being delivered to children and families in North Carolina?

AND

- If programs are proven, how are they being delivered to children and families in North Carolina -- with the key ingredients for effectiveness?

AND

- As funders and advocates who want better results for children and families, how are we supporting community-based agencies in accessing the key ingredients of effectiveness?

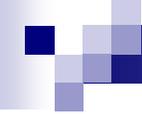


The Alliance for Evidence-Based Family Strengthening Programs

- Collaborative group of public and private organizations/agencies that fund family strengthening programs to improve a range of outcomes for children and their families
- Goal is to collaboratively support successful implementation of evidence-based programs.

Who Participates in the Alliance?

- Current Membership: NCPC, NCDPH, NCDSS, NCDMH/DD/SAS, Children's Trust Fund/DPI, Governor's Crime Commission, The Duke Endowment, & Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
- Staffed by PCA North Carolina and the Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University.



Key Premises of the Alliance

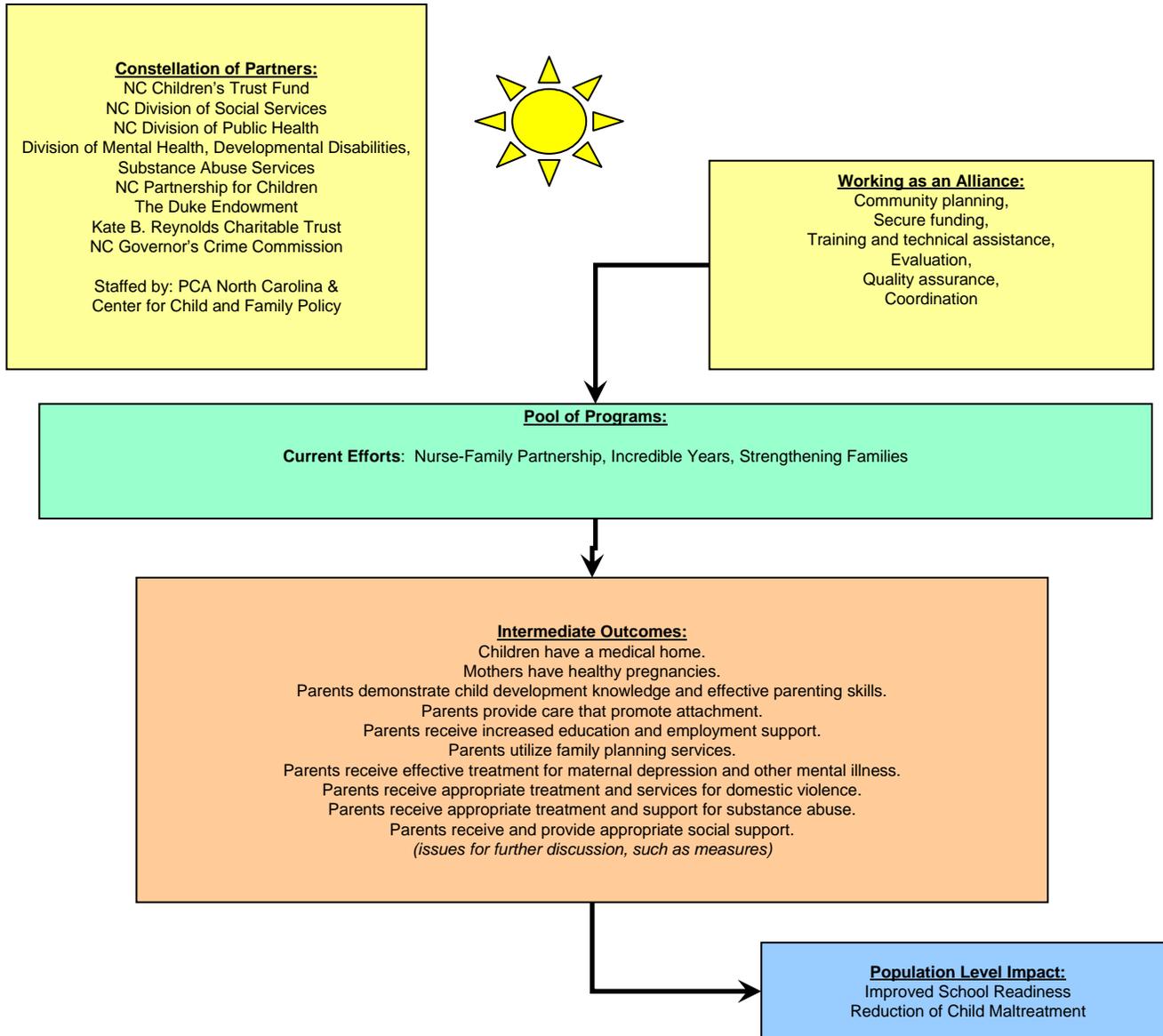
- When we invest wisely in proven programs that promote optimal child development, the next generation will pay back the investment as productive and responsible citizens.
- Communities and agencies need access to “scaffolding” -- ongoing training, coaching/technical assistance and program evaluation -- to deliver evidence-based programs successfully.



Key Premises of the Alliance

- Evidence-based programs often result in better outcomes across multiple domains (child abuse prevention, school readiness, substance abuse prevention, violence prevention, etc.).
- Funders can best advance the replication of proven programs by working together, across funding streams, to collaboratively support and sustain programs we know produce the best outcomes for children and their families.

ALLIANCE LOGIC MODEL





Alliance “Collaboration Table”

- Alliance members agree program meets number of criteria (evidence-based, replicable, etc.) and target the Alliance’s shared intermediate outcomes
- Alliance members agree to fund local agencies to implement these programs (as appropriate)
- Collaboratively build and fund state-level scaffolding (as needed) to support implementation of these programs



Alliance “Collaboration Table”

- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Incredible Years
- Strengthening Families (limited scaffolding)



Working Together for Better Results

- Through collaboration of public and private funders:
 - One portal of entry for any agency/community that is interested in replicating an Alliance-sponsored program
 - Common tools to assess agency and community readiness for implementing the program
 - Set of implementation guidelines that all funders agree to uphold (e.g., fidelity requirements)
 - One evaluation process and set of tools (in process)



Better Results

- Increased replication of specific evidence-based programs
- More effective implementation with fidelity = better results for kids and family
- Increased efficiencies – one set of tools, staff providing technical assistance, implementation/fidelity guidelines across agencies
- Easier for communities to implement an evidence-based program