Developing and Piloting a System to Prioritize Mental Health Services for DCF-Involved Infants, Young Children and Families
Agenda

About MSPCC

Project Context

● Development of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) systems

● Behavioral health challenges in foster care

● Understanding very young DCF involved children

Our Approach
MSPCC: Our Work & Approach

- Prevent or mitigate the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, household substance abuse, household mental illness and domestic violence

- Convene, Collaborate & Advocate
Developing an IECMH System

Building Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Policy and Practice

- Access to Services & Supports
- Public Awareness
- Workforce

EQUITY
Workforce

- Professional Development and Credentialing
- Sustainable Funding / Fair Compensation
Access to Services and Supports

- Families including Foster Families and Residential Care
- Early Education and Care Settings
- Pediatric and Primary Care
Public Awareness

- Families
- Other Caregivers
- Health and Behavioral Health Providers
- Educators
- Policy Makers
Behavioral Health Challenges in Foster Care

MSPCC Kids Net 2018 Foster Parent Survey

- 34% of respondents indicated they said ‘no’ to a placement due to behavioral issues
- 69% of respondents indicated they terminated a placement due to a child’s behavior & 23% due to mental health issues
- Only 26.82% of respondents said children in their care ‘always’ receive the mental health services they needed.
Behavioral Health Challenges in Foster Care

On average, how long does it take for the child(ren) to be seen for the first time by a mental health care provider?

![Graph showing the time taken for first mental health care provider contact.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2 weeks</td>
<td>8.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 month</td>
<td>19.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2 months</td>
<td>17.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 3 months</td>
<td>19.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 4 months</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5 months</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6+ months</td>
<td>21.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Project

Creating a model for providing expedited access to mental health services for DCF involved Infants and children age birth to three
## DCF involved children by the numbers

### FY 2018 Q4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Statewide</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Park Street Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cases</strong></td>
<td>25,392</td>
<td>3,413</td>
<td>972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children Under age 18 in caseload</strong></td>
<td>47,980</td>
<td>6,574</td>
<td>2,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children in placement</strong></td>
<td>9,631 (20%)</td>
<td>1,247 (19%)</td>
<td>352 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children placed with kin</strong></td>
<td>3,469 (36%)</td>
<td>420 (34%)</td>
<td>117 (33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth - 5 in placement</strong></td>
<td>3626 (38%)</td>
<td>443 (36%)</td>
<td>137 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children not in placement</strong></td>
<td>39,348 (80%)</td>
<td>5,327 (81%)</td>
<td>1,673 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth - 5 not in placement</strong></td>
<td>13,774 (36%)</td>
<td>1,717 (32%)</td>
<td>534 (32%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Research: Why and how do families become DCF involved?

- The impact of poverty
- Adversities including substance abuse and domestic violence
- Disadvantaged and fractured social networks
- Reliance on social services

Children and Youth Services Review Vol 72 Jan 2017 pp 5-13
Policy and Practice for DCF involvement with very young children

- CAPTA PART C. Mandated EI services for all children under age 3 involved in a substantiated case of child abuse, neglect, or illegal drug exposure

- MGL Chapter 119 51A.-“physical dependence on an addictive drug at birth”

- Strengthening Families and Protective Factors Framework
Developing the Model

- Collaboration
  - MSPCC/Eliot and DCF
  - MAFF, MassAIMH and Head Start

- Consultation
  - Advisory Group
  - Parents
  - Other Stakeholders
Developing the Model

Hot Topics

- Engagement of families
- Confidentiality and Information Sharing
- Referrals
- Identification of Specific Intervention Tools
- Data Gathering
- Sustainability
Piloting Services

Stay Tuned!