



## ***Building Upstream Support Strategies: Protocol to Better Understand the Intersection between Young Children and Child Welfare***

### Goals:

1. Understand how young children and their families are coming to the attention of child welfare
  - a. Who is referring children young children and their families to child welfare?
  - b. What are the needs of children young children and their families who are referred to child welfare?
2. Identify available services to meet the needs of young children and their families
  - a. What services are available in the community to meet the needs of young children and families, including those who are referred to child welfare?
  - b. What services do child welfare workers currently link young children and their families to?

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### **Activities to Support Goal #1**

#### *Goal 1a Guiding Questions:*

- Data analysis of who is reporting young children and their families to the child welfare hotline:
  - Where do the calls come from? Schools, doctors, community-based organizations, mandated vs non-mandated reporters?
  - Disaggregate the data by race and geography of the state. What variations do you see?
- Data analysis of calls accepted at the child welfare hotline:
  - Where do the calls come from? Schools, doctors, community-based organizations, mandated vs non-mandated reporters?
  - Disaggregate the data by race and geography of the state. What variations do you see?
- What data sources other than child welfare data can tell you how children are coming to the attention of child welfare?
  - Have you engaged those with lived experience?
  - Have you engaged other public agencies, tribes, and pueblos?
  - Have you engaged community-based organizations?

#### *Goal 1b Guiding Questions:*

- Data on substantiated investigations:
  - What are the needs of young children and families?
  - Disaggregate the data by race and geography. What variations do you see?
- What data sources other than child welfare data can tell you about the needs of young children and their families who are referred to child welfare and experience a substantiated investigation?
  - Have you engaged those with lived experience to understand the needs (possibly through focus groups)?
  - Have you engaged other public agencies and tribes?



## Activities to Support Goal #2

### Goal 2a Activities:

- Conduct a scan of existing services for young children by engaging key stakeholders:
  - Engage public agencies serving young children and their families including: child welfare, health, behavioral health, human services, etc.
  - Engage tribes and pueblos
  - Engage community-based organizations
  - Engage those with lived experience
  - Who else is missing from the table?

### Goal 2a Guiding Questions:

- Engaging public agencies:
  - What services does each agency fund?
  - What services does each agency contract for?
  - Where are the services located?
  - Are they culturally-responsive? If so, can you share more?
- Engaging tribes and pueblos:
  - What services exist in your community for young children and their families?
  - Where are the services located geographically?
- Engaging those with lived experience:
  - What services exist in your community to support young children and families?
  - What services were you referred to if any? Where were they located?
  - What services did you find the most helpful?
  - Are there certain things that make it difficult to access services (e.g. location, timing for classes, transportation, insurance, immigration status, other barriers)?
  - What else can you tell us about services or gaps in the service array?
- Engaging community-based organizations:
  - What service(s) do you provide?
  - Where are your services located geographically?
  - Are your services culturally responsive? If so, can you share more?

### Goal 2b Guiding Questions:

- Engaging child welfare:
  - What services for young children does the child welfare agency contract for? When do child welfare workers refer to these services (i.e. when children are living in their home or when they are in foster care)?
  - How is the state utilizing Title IV-B or CAPTA/CBCAP? Are any of these funding streams being used to support prevention services? *important to focus on services that do not require ongoing child welfare surveillance.*
  - Does child welfare have MOUs with other public agencies, tribes, or pueblos to provide services? If so, which services? When do child welfare workers refer to these services (i.e. when children are living in their home or when they are in foster care)?
  - What data exist regarding service referrals from child welfare? Are there feedback loops to know whether or not families who are referred engage in services and those services meet family needs?
  - Have child welfare frontline staff been surveyed about the services? What services do they refer children and families to? What services would they like to refer children and families to but are unable to (i.e. service doesn't exist in the community, child welfare doesn't have a contract with the organization, etc.)?

## Additional Research Activities to Support Goals #1 and #2

- Review any state, tribe, or pueblo needs assessments that exist
- Review any state, tribe, or pueblo plans that have been submitted to the federal government (i.e. PDG, CCDF, Medicaid, Title IV-B, etc.)