The Identification of Promising Practices Of the National Safe Start Demonstration Project

October 29, 2005

Session Title: Building Capacity of a National Initiative for Children Exposed to Violence Through Evaluation

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Project’s Three Primary Purposes:

(1) Reduce the impact of family and community violence on young children

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(2) Change systems-
Create a coordinated & comprehensive system of care
System of Care Includes:

- Early childhood education/development
- Health
- Mental health
- Family support and strengthening
- Domestic violence
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Crisis intervention
- Child welfare
- Law enforcement
- Courts
- Legal services

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Project’s Purposes Continued:

(3) Improve interventions-
Quality of services
Access to services
Delivery of services

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Safe Start Overall Logic Model

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Integrated Assistance
- Local
- National

Local Agency & Community Engagement & Collaboration

Assessment & Planning

Within Organization
- System Change Activities
  - Development of policies, procedures, protocols
  - Service integration activities (e.g., cross-disciplinary training, multi-system MIS)
  - Resource development, identification & reallocation
  - New/expanded/enhanced programming
  - Community action/awareness activities

POS/Staff

X-Organization

Institutionalization of Change
- System and Agency Change (e.g., service coordination and integration; supportive policies; improve service delivery within systems)
- Point of Service Change (e.g., improved identification, assessment, referral, follow-up by staff within each agency/system)
- Community Change (e.g., increased community awareness of impact of exposure and community resources; changed community norms re: violence)

Increased Community supports for and uses of services to address violence exposure and decreased tolerance of violence

Reduced Exposure to Violence

Reduced Impact of Exposure to Violence

CONTEXTUAL CONDITIONS
Safe Start Enhanced Intervention Logic Model

**System Change Activities**

- **POS/Staff**
  - New/expanded/enhanced programming

- **Identification of children exposed to violence**

- **Assessment of exposure to and impact of violence**

- **Referral to services for children exposed to violence**

- **Treatment and service delivery to children exposed to violence**

**Institutionalization of change**

- **Reduced exposure to violence**

- **Reduced impact of exposure to violence**
Evaluating Safe Start:

- National-local partnership
- Evaluation includes multiple levels of analysis
  - Point of Service Change
  - Agency Change
  - Cross-Agency (or System) Change
  - Community Change
Evaluating Safe Start:

- Evaluation creates various learning opportunities -
  Reviewed system change strategies across sites and produced a special report

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Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Validated collective struggle to change the system of care

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Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Provided an opportunity for sites to showcase what they have learned
Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Created opportunity for sites to learn from their peers

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Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Provided the field with needed information

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What Makes a Practice Promising?

- Preliminary evidence of effectiveness in specific interventions, practices, or activities;
- Successful use in at least one of the Safe Start Initiative sites;
- The potential for replication; and
- An improvement over previous practices.

Sources: Dare Mighty Things, Inc., Green, L.W., Michael Patton (2001)

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How were Promising Practices Identified?

- Review of site documents;
- Extraction of pertinent information;
- Confirmation of information, collection of further data, and clarification;
- Entry of the information into the Promising Practices Data Matrix; and
- Selection of Promising Practices.
Review of Documents:

- The 2004 versions of three site documents were reviewed.
  - Implementation Plan
  - Strategic Plan
  - Progress Report
Extraction of Information:

- For each promising practice identified in these documents, the following data elements were extracted:
  - Intended Population of Practice
  - Reason Practice is Promising
  - Evidence of Success
Confirmation of Information:

- Preliminary Promising Practices Data Matrix sent to each site’s Project Director for review and clarification
- Information was confirmed and completed via a telephone interview with the Project Director (or staff in some cases)
Entry of Information into the Data Matrix:

- Matrices were modified based on staff feedback and returned to the sites for final review
- Additional changes or comments were incorporated
Selection of Promising Practices:

- Practices that met the established criteria for promising were included in the special report.
Examples of Service Integration:

- Case sharing and management
  - Joint home visits
  - Use of technology to enable information sharing

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Examples of New, Enhanced, and Expanded Programming:

- Expansion of identification and referral pathway
  - Expanding services to new geographic areas
  - Training new volunteers to identify and refer children exposed to violence
  - Engaging first responders such as emergency medical services and 911 command center
  - Examining previous and existing caseloads
Examples Development of Policies, Procedures and Protocols:

- Changes in policies for identifying children exposed to violence
  - Adding at least one question to existing intake protocols to identify children exposed to violence
  - Making identification of children exposed to violence an official part of a person’s job description
Examples of Community Action and Awareness:

• Development and distribution of public education materials
  – Fact sheets
  – Brochures
  – Flyers
  – Posters
  – Animated video and coloring book

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Examples of Development, Identification, and Reallocation of Resources

- Reallocation of funds to support Safe Start goals or related activities
- Development of new funds to support cross-sector collaboration
  - To Encourage Arrest (DOJ grant)
  - Family Justice Center
  - Safe and Bright Futures (OJJDP grant)
  - City and County annual commitment to Safe Start

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Building Capacity:

- Evaluation as a tool to build capacity
- Building evaluation capacity to increase overall organizational capacity
Contact Information:

- For a copy of the power point presentation contact Mary Hyde
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Obtaining the Report:

- For a copy of the special report go to www.capacitybuilding.net
  - Click on Safe Start
  - Click on Promising Practices Link
  - Download “Promising Practices of Demonstration Sites”
See also:

- Click on Process Evaluation Link
- Click on “Volume I” Link
- Automatically Downloads “Volume I: Cross-Site Process Evaluation”