



# CWLA: Chapin Hall Spotlight Track

Operationalizing a Community Pathway to Prevention:  
Partnering with Families to Strengthen Communities

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# SPOTLIGHT ACTION LABS

## A Call to Action

Creating policies that keep families together.



Providing interventions that build on strengths and address family circumstances.

Investing in prevention services.



Building systems that safeguard children from significant risk of maltreatment & improve their well-being.

**Across the country action is being take to address longstanding child welfare system failures. Chapin Hall is proud to be a part of the creation of a 21st Century family and child well-being system oriented around prevention and equity.**



# SYSTEM RE-DESIGN

## Levers of Change

The Chapin Hall spotlight track describes four key levers for system redesign.

These levers, taken together, provide a powerful set of tools that participants can use to reimagine and transform their child serving systems.



### Economic Supports

Measuring economic risk for child welfare involvement and increasing access to economic and concrete supports



### Technical Innovation

Technical solutions and strategies for expanding prevention services, estimating costs, and tracking referrals



### Community Pathways

Building community pathways to prevention and creating a new service experience for families



### CQI

Engaging stakeholders in CQI processes and ensuring improvement efforts are driven by those most impacted by the results

# SPOTLIGHT TRACK

## Re-Imagining a Prevention-Focused and Equitable Child Welfare System for the 21st Century – Opening Session Plenary

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B1: How Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is Being Used to Transform a Child Welfare System  
Wednesday, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**C2: Operationalizing a Community Pathway to Prevention: Partnering with Families to Strengthen Communities**  
**Wednesday, 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**

D1: An Analytic Framework to Address Economic-Related Risk Factors in Child Welfare  
Thursday, 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm

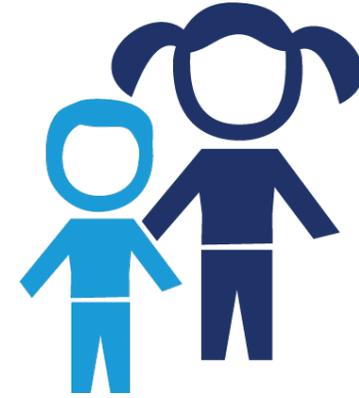
E1: Evidence Based Program (EBP) Exploration and Cost Tool: A Family First Planning and Implementation Tool for Effective Selection of EBPs Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

F1: Service Array Transformation: Leveraging a Service Referral Application to Build Cross-System Collaboration and Improve Outcomes for Communities in Washington, DC, that are Vulnerable - Thursday, 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

G1: Flexible Funds in Kentucky to Increase Well-being: Operationalizing the Evidence on Economic and Concrete Supports  
Friday, 8:30 am – 9:30 am



# Building Community Pathways to Prevention in the Family First Context



# Family First

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**Transforming child welfare to achieve better outcomes for children and families**



# BUILDING COMMUNITY PATHWAYS



- **Flexibilities exist** around defining candidates for prevention services and the context in which they receive and are connected to evidence-based prevention services (EBPs)
- A growing number of states are **reconceptualizing** their prevention continuum, the role of community agencies, and the family service experience

# BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- *Increased investment* in community capacity to engage and serve families
- Prevention services provided to families through *trusted community entities*
- Family prevention service experience *outside* of the traditional child welfare paradigm
- *Flexibility* in how community pathways can be conceptualized and implemented toward a reduction in the CPS footprint in families' lives
- *Stronger partnerships* between child welfare agencies, community entities, and providers of evidence-based services

# CHALLENGES AND TENSIONS

- *Optimizing flexibility* within the Family First legislative framework
- Increasing access to prevention services *without* increasing surveillance or facilitating unnecessary child welfare system involvement
- *Balancing* data reporting requirements and family consent and privacy
- *Maximizing community agency* while maintaining required functions of the state title IV-E agency
- *Building community infrastructure and capacity* to perform required care, coordination and data functions



# Developing a Community Pathway: Connecticut's Journey

# DCF Vision

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*To serve families as far upstream as possible in order to prevent ongoing involvement with the child welfare system.*



# Care Management Entity (CME)

*The CME will serve as the organization that coordinates and monitors services for children and their families who fit the definition of CT's community pathways.*

## Essential Characteristics of CT's Care Entity:

- Easily accessible for families
- Supportive & empathetic
- Is "safe" and stigma free
- Has the ability to think of the whole child & family
- Has a local connection to the community
- Has pre-existing knowledge of the community



# Intended Populations to be Served

Families accepted for **Voluntary Care Management** services

*(Current practice, will be combined with Community Pathways)*

## Community Pathways (Future)

- Youth that have exited foster care
- Children who are chronically absent from preschool/school or who are truant from school
- Children of incarcerated parents
- Trafficked youth
- Unstably housed/homeless youth
- Families experiencing interpersonal violence
- Youth who have been referred to a JRB, YSB, or another diversion program
- Caregivers who have, or have a child with, a substance use disorder, mental health condition, or disability that impacts parenting
- Infants born substance-exposed (as defined by the State CAPTA notification protocol)



# Overview



## CHILD/FAMILY IS REFERRED.

**Potential referral sources:**

- Family/Self Referral
- Schools
- Partner Agencies & Organizations
- Healthcare



## INITIAL ASSESSMENTS

**Community Management Entity (CME) assesses**

- Safety & Risk
- Strengths & Needs
- Eligibility & Demographic Info
- Child Specific Prevention Plan



## ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

**Child Welfare staff makes final determination**

- Using data & recommendations from the CME
- IV-E agency makes the final candidacy decision

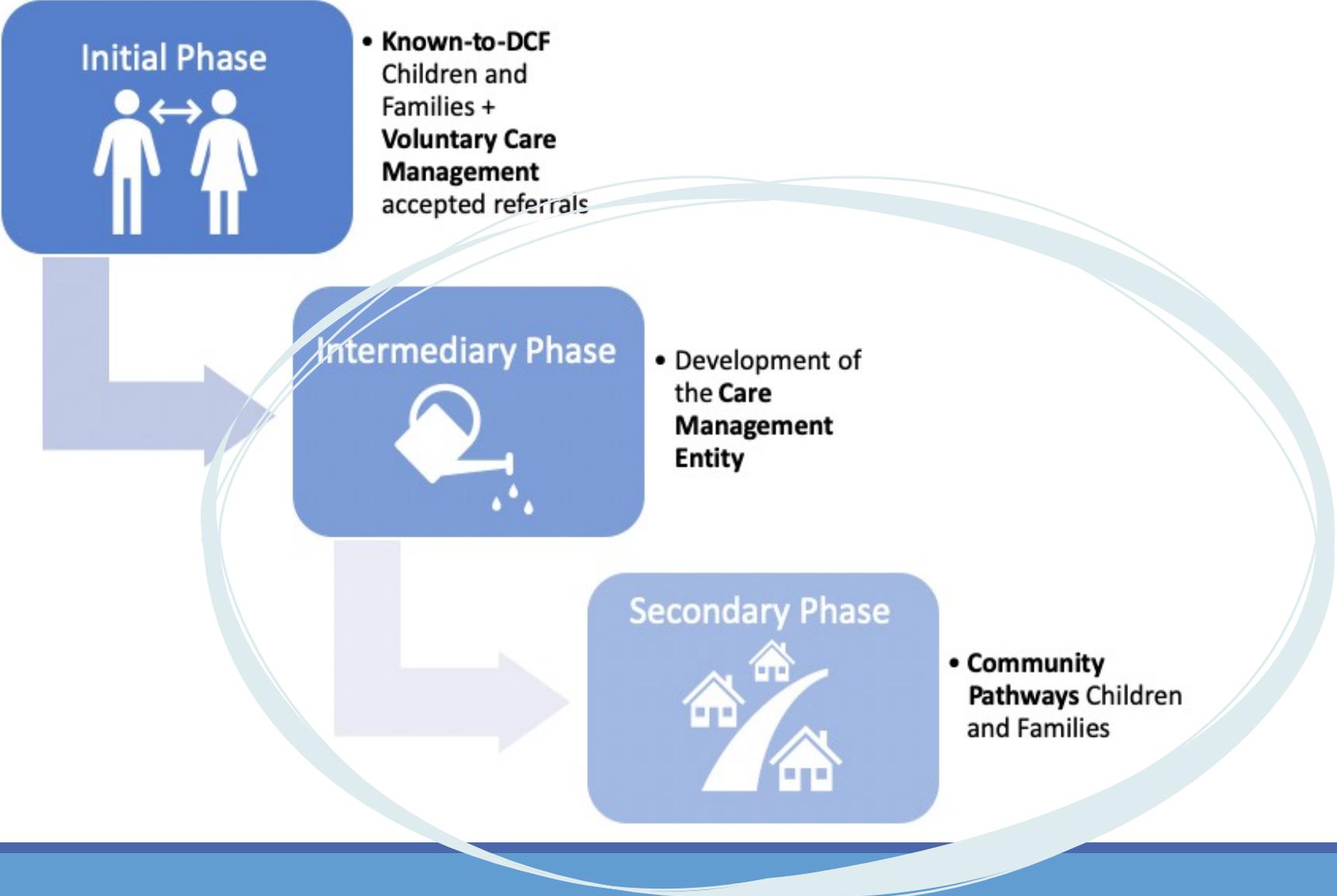


## SERVICE REFERRAL & MONITORING

**CME leads case management efforts**

- CME refers and monitors services
- CME reports monitoring data to Child Welfare

# Phased Implementation



# Entry Points

## Potential Referral Sources

Families	First Responders
Healthcare	Judicial
Partner Agencies	Community Organizations
Schools	Faith-Based Organizations



**Care Management Entity**



## Other Possible Routes

- Connecticut Department of Children and Families **Careline.**
- Connecticut's 211 line.



# Data, Monitoring, & CQI

## CME & Families

- Assess strengths & needs every 6 months
- Regular contact with candidates, families, and service providers
- Informal safety and risk assessments at each contact by CME or service providers
  - All providers and CME staff will be trained mandated reporters

## DCF & CME

- Collaborative CQI structure monitoring
  - Quality of CSPP & Services
  - Effectiveness of services
  - Ongoing risk & safety
  - Monitoring, adjusting, and closing (when appropriate) the CSPP
- Shared data information
- Contract Monitoring

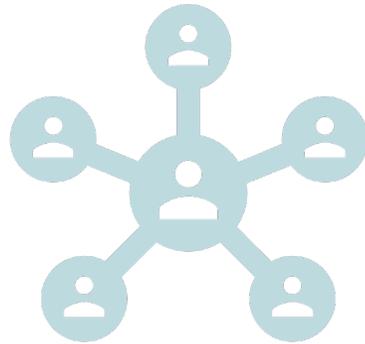


# Moving Forward

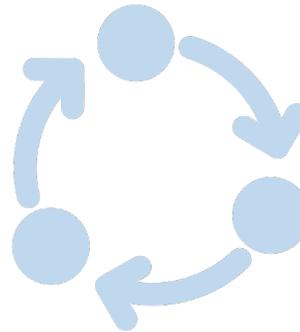
Data sharing while balancing family consent and privacy.



Identifying and standing up the CME.



Establishing a responsive and all-encompassing CQI system.



Providing necessary workforce training.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

*Redesigning prevention services while  
adhering to Federal requirements*

## Key Questions and Considerations

- Engagement and partnerships
- Governance and decision-making
- Vision and values
- Communication and messaging
- Community providers and contracts
- Identifying candidates and engaging families
- Child-specific prevention plan development and candidacy determination
- Service identification, referrals and coordination with EBP providers
- Risk and safety monitoring
- Information technology infrastructure, data collection requirements and data sharing
- Monitoring and continuous quality improvement
- Staff selection and Human Resources considerations
- Training and coaching



# Q&A and Discussion

YOUR CALL TO ACTION:



**Please attend the next action lab in the Chapin Hall spotlight track:**

D1: An Analytic Framework to Address Economic-Related Risk Factors in Child Welfare

Thursday, 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm

- Review and be inspired by Connecticut's Title IV-E Prevention Plan:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/CTFamilyFirst/Home>
- Download additional resources in the Chapin Hall Family First Toolkit:  
<https://www.chapinhall.org/project/family-first-planning-readiness-toolkit/>
- Engage partners in continued dialogue about how Community Pathways to Prevention can be explored in your jurisdiction!



Questions or comments?  
Please reach out to:

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# Thank you!

1. Connecticut Department of Children and Families
2. Child Welfare League of America
3. Casey Family Programs