Pathways to Prevention: Transforming Child Welfare Systems

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Session Overview

Presentation

Presenter Discussion

Audience Q&A
Presenters

J. Bart Klika, MSW, Ph.D.
Chief Research Officer, Prevent Child Abuse America

William C. Bell, Ph.D.
President and CEO, Casey Family Programs

Takkeem Morgan, MBA
Founder, Mosaic ParentHub
Mission:
To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation’s children.

Vision:
We envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

...because childhood lasts a lifetime!
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs can include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems. Exposure to ACEs can change brain development and affect how the body responds to stress. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood. However, ACEs can be prevented.

Preventing ACEs can help children and adults thrive and potentially:
- Lower risk for conditions like depression, asthma, cancer, and diabetes in adulthood.
- Reduce risky behaviors like smoking, and heavy drinking.
- Improve education and job potential.
- Stop ACEs from being passed on from one generation to the next.

Adverse Childhood Experiences impact lifelong health and opportunities.

ACEs are common and the effects can add up over time.
- 61% of adults had at least one ACE and 16% had 4 or more types of ACEs.
- Females and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for experiencing 4 or more ACEs.
- Many people do not realize that exposure to ACEs is associated with increased risk for health problems across the lifespan.

WHAT IS PRIMARY PREVENTION?
Stopping abuse before it occurs.
Primary prevention activities are designed for the general population to provide support to prevent ACEs and minimize risks before they occur.

WHAT IS SECONDARY PREVENTION?
Targeted responses to at-risk populations.
Secondary prevention activities are targeted at families that have one or more risk factors associated with ACEs (such as substance use or mental health conditions) to prevent and minimize challenges.

WHAT IS TERTIARY PREVENTION?
Long-term responses to stop abuse and neglect and minimize consequences.
Tertiary prevention activities focus on families of children who have already experienced ACEs in order to minimize impact, prevent further harm and help families heal.

MAKE PREVENTION THE PRIORITY

Preventing and mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) protects children, strengthens families and saves taxpayer dollars. Investing in prevention efforts upstream helps to prevent more serious problems in the future.
Concrete & Economic Supports as Prevention

- State spending on public benefits programs
- Earned-Income Tax Credits (EITC) & Child Tax Credits (CTC)
- Paid Family Leave (PFL)
- Childcare subsidies
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Minimum wage
- Medicaid
POLICY OPTIONS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

Maternal & Child Health
- Evidence-based Home Visiting programs
- Prenatal Care
- Enhanced primary care

Economic Stability
- Tax credits
- Minimum wage
- Income supports
- Paid Leave programs
- Nutrition programs

Community and Education & Awareness
- 1-800 Warm Lines
- Public education campaigns
- Family Resource Centers
- Child sex abuse prevention education

Early Childhood Supports
- Pre-K & Afterschool programs
- Parent support and education
- Quality and affordable childcare

Mental Health Supports
- Accessible mental health services
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Trauma informed care in schools and childcare centers
Contact Information & Ways to Connect

J. Bart Klika, MSW, PhD
Chief Research Officer
bklika@preventchildabuse.org
773-633-6197

@PCAAmerica  @preventchildabuseamerica
@pcaamerica  @prevent-child-abuse-america
William C. Bell, Ph.D.
President and CEO, Casey Family Programs
Takkeem Morgan, MBA
Founder, Mosaic ParentHub
REDEFINING RESCUE
A TRANFORMATIONAL SHIFT IN CHILD WELFARE
TAKKEEM MORGAN
My story of family began here

The City of Philadelphia

I was born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia.
My Family
1985
5th Grade
1989
3 of 4 Siblings
1998
Aged Out of Foster Care into Penn State University 2000
Completed a Master’s in Business Administration 2015
Executive Director & Co-Founder 2021
AGED OUT OF FOSTER CARE LAST YEAR

20,000
Audience Q&A
3 Key Questions to Take Home

1) What could a transformed child welfare system look like?
2) How can legislators create supports for families within the child welfare system?
3) How can legislators prevent families from entering the system?
NCSL Resources

Policy Levers for Preventing Child Maltreatment

Child Welfare Database

Family First State Plans and Enacted Legislation

Economic Mobility Database

Economic Mobility Snapshot
NCSL Staff Contacts

Jenna Bannon
Associate Director
jenna.bannon@ncsl.org

Jill Yordy
Senior Policy Specialist
jill.yordy@ncsl.org

Heather Wilson
Senior Policy Specialist
heather.wilson@ncsl.org

Hannah Ditzenberger
Policy Associate
hannah.ditzenberger@ncsl.org
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