

## Building Systems That Support Resilience

**Resilience** – the power to return to the original form after being bent, compressed, or stretched

### **Resilience Factors/Protective Factors**

- A safe, nurturing family
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Parental emotional resilience
- Social connections for families
- Concrete supports – food, housing, transportation, clothing, and services
  - Children’s Bureau, 2008

### **Child Welfare Partnership Efforts**

#### **1. Development and support of Community Collaboratives (est. 6-8 million dollar impact)**

**Principles: *focus on local community needs and outcomes, strong civic/volunteer leadership with professionals serving in a technical support role, goal-setting and action-oriented, evidence-informed innovation, capable of influencing (public and private funding, political resources, etc.)***

- Pottawatomie County Child Welfare Collaborative – priority is identifying and addressing needs of children in school and their families
- Lincoln County Partnership for Well-Being – priority is jobs and transportation
- Oklahoma County Child and Family Council – priorities include increasing safe, appropriate family reunification, improving foster placement stability and supports to foster parents, expediting the time from entry into foster care to permanency (reunification, adoption, or permanent guardianship), reducing future CWS involvement, and serving foster youth (age 14-18) at risk of aging out of foster care
- Resilience factors addressed – safe, nurturing families, knowledge of parenting and child development, parental emotional resilience, concrete supports

#### **2. ICWA Partnership (2.5 million dollars)**

- 5 year grant-supported collaboration between the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association, the Court Improvement Program, and DHS
- Goal is to improve CW practice related to Indian Children (ICWA)
- Collaborative, participatory-planning model (like the Community Collaboratives)

- Local innovation projects with local leadership
- Tribal-State Workgroup provides oversight
- Resilience factors addressed – social connection to Tribe, others are likely as innovation projects are developed

### **3. 111 Project/Care Portal (1.8 million dollars)**

- Framework for connecting case workers with churches to meet needs
- 12 counties, 319 churches, 4600 children/families served
- Tier 1 – physical needs (active) , Tier 2 – volunteers (testing), Tier 3 – families (testing)
- Resilience factors addressed – concrete supports, social connections for families

### **4. Safe Families**

- “host” families provide extended family to those who don’t have help
- Partnering with other programs (NorthCare/CHBS, ReMerge, hospitals, Homeless Alliance) to ensure overall family success/resilience
- Resilience factors addressed – Safe, nurturing family, social connections for families

### **Challenges/Opportunities/Next Steps**

1. State agencies should dedicate resources to planning, innovation and partnerships, not just self-centered improvements
2. One size does not fit all – importance of local community efforts partnered with statewide agencies
3. Thoughtful planning, evaluation, and implementation of child safety and well-being approaches should be overseen by a statewide civic-led group
4. Need to analyze our state’s current capacity so that solutions can be “fitted” to Oklahoma, not just dropped in from other states/communities
5. Work to strengthen local/state-wide services and non-profits
6. Minimize collaboration barriers - braided funding and personnel, shared workspace, procurement, etc.
7. Select/support agency leadership who believe in collaboration and who will back it up with action

For more info, please contact me:

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