

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

California Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Citizen Review Panel



Promoting Child and Family Well-Being

FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD WELFARE PREVENTION PRACTICE

The Prevention and Early Intervention Committee/Citizen Review Panel (PEI/CRP) of the California Child Welfare Council identifies and promotes services and systems that prevent the need for families to enter the child welfare system and assists them in achieving family and child well-being. The responsibility of a Citizen Review Panel, mandated under federal law, has been incorporated into the Committee, and we serve in a statewide capacity as one of California's three panels. A primary goal of the PEI/CRP is to identify key elements of child welfare prevention practice that can be consistently and uniformly utilized by State and County Child Welfare and their partner agencies and providers to guide funding decisions, as well as the design, delivery and evaluation of programming and services.



Development of the Framework for Child Welfare Prevention Practice:

The PEI/CRP identified and reviewed six models and philosophies of prevention practice that are in current use across the country and generally recognized to have significant positive impact on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as family preservation and reunification. These include:

- Differential Response Framework
- Strengthening Families
- Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening
- Essentials for Childhood
- Core Practice Model and
- New Jersey Standards for Prevention

Analysis of each model was conducted and a matrix developed to identify key elements that were shared in common across these models, as well as those essential elements unique to each model of practice. From there, the PEI/CRP identified key elements that would ideally be considered in all child welfare prevention practice, as well as gaps. The result of this analysis is presented on page four. In addition to the key elements, the Committee identified beliefs critical to the effective implementation of prevention programming in all communities, informed, in part, by the work of Deborah Daro, Senior Research Fellow, Chapin Hall:

- The ultimate goal for any community is to have safe, stable and nurturing families.
- All children must be kept safe from abuse and neglect, and thriving.
- Strategies are most effective when they target children, families, and communities and all are valued, respected and have a voice.
- All entities that participate in prevention must work closely together, understand each other's roles, share information and training, and view the system as starting with prevention and early intervention, continuing through permanency and after-care.
- From a systems perspective, robust prevention practice in child welfare produces significant savings in terms of both the human and financial costs averted.

Recommendation:

The PEI/CRP recommends that these key elements of child welfare prevention practice guide program design, service delivery, and evaluation of effectiveness, at both the State and County levels for Child Welfare and partner agencies and providers, and guide related funding and resource allocation priorities. Ultimately, to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and prevent out of home or out of family placements, we recommend that a long-term, collaborative investment in effective prevention practice be implemented across systems throughout the State of California. This will help the State to take to scale the well-researched, proven practices and programs informed by these key elements.

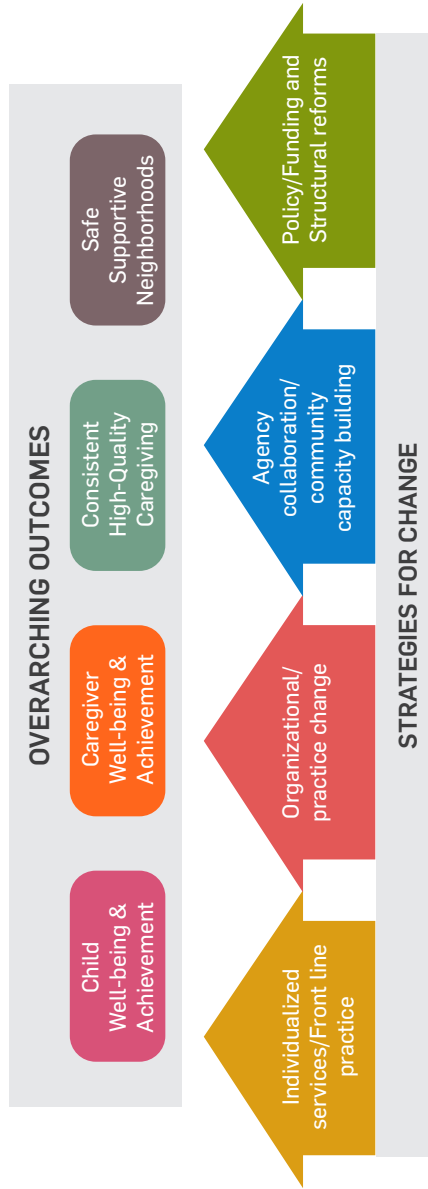
Intended Audiences:

It is anticipated that the Framework for Child Welfare Prevention Practice, and an accompanying resource guide (to be developed), will be useful to—

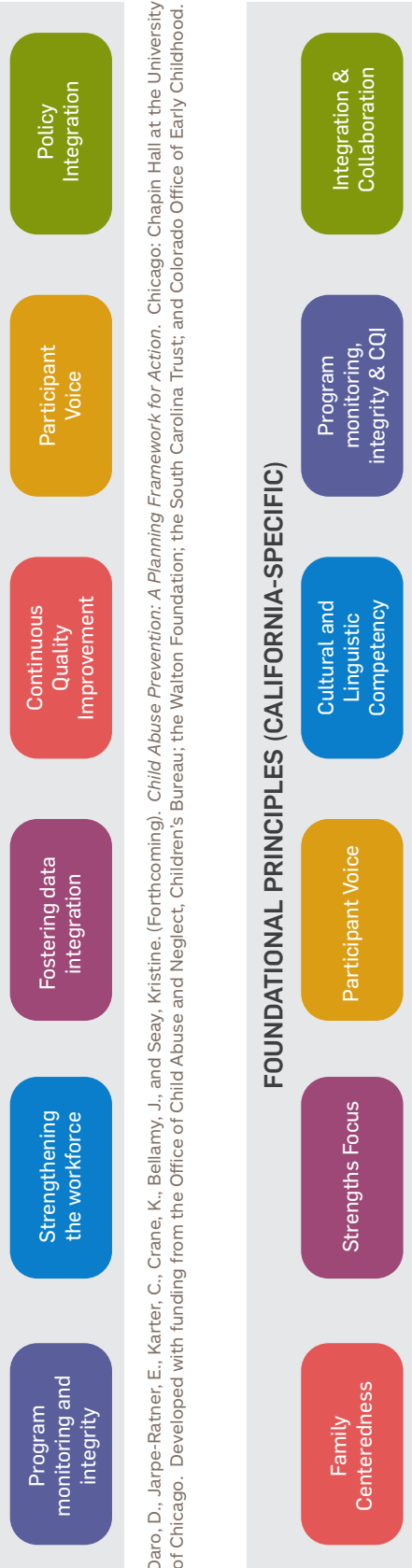
- **State and Local Child Welfare Agencies and other Public Agencies** entrusted with the mission of ensuring child and family well-being.
- **Policymakers and State Budget Committees** and agencies as a lens through which to set priorities, evaluate, invest in and implement child and family strengthening approaches that enhances child safety, permanence and well-being.
- **Providers** as a guide to effective, high quality and evidence based practices and approaches.
- **Families/Community Members** as confirmation of California's commitment and reminder of mutual commitment to see all children raised in healthy, safe families and communities.

CALL TO ACTION:

It is our call to action that across all counties in California, programs, policies and systems work together to not only facilitate prevention of child abuse and neglect, but also the ongoing promotion of health and well-being for all children and families. Preventing child abuse and neglect, and promoting the well-being of children, families, and communities, are shared responsibilities and it is hoped that the Framework for Child Welfare Prevention Practice will serve as an effective working tool to inspire each other to deeper and more meaningful action in keeping with the values of the Child Welfare Council, statewide standards and initiatives, and the federal standards under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. A multifaceted and multi-level approach is needed to achieve the over-arching outcomes described herein. To this end, the Committee will also provide a resource guide to help to support and inform the practices we are recommending.



FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES (NATIONAL FRAMEWORK)



FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES (CALIFORNIA-SPECIFIC)



Daro, D., Jarpe-Ratner, E., Karter, C., Crane, K., Bellamy, J., and Seay, Kristine. (Forthcoming). *Child Abuse Prevention: A Planning Framework for Action*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Developed with funding from the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau; the Walton Foundation; the South Carolina Trust; and Colorado Office of Early Childhood.

- Identifies and acknowledges the strengths of the family and the community.
- Enhances or increases protective factors
- Increases parental resilience.
- Enhances well-being of all family members.
- Supports empowerment of parents.
- Increases parental knowledge of effective parenting, child development, and nurturing.
- Enhances social connections.

- Accommodates the family as defined by the family.
- Incorporates all family members.
- Intergenerational
- Is accessible and available
- Provides linkage/access to resources identified as needed by family.
- Program environment is conducive to family needs.

- Community/target population engaged in design and delivery.
- Mechanism for ongoing community/target population input.
- Encourages and supports families and children to identify their own needs and plan for services.
- Utilizes peer supports/coaches.
- Services are appropriate to implementation community & responsive to community data on vulnerable or underserved populations.

- Culturally responsive and sensitive
- Linguistically competent and sensitive.
- Provided within the community.
- Staff composition reflects the ethnic, linguistic and cultural aspects of the community.
- On-going Training on cultural and linguistic competency is incorporated.

- Evidence-based or informed.
- Monitored to ensure:
 - Fidelity to model.
 - Quality of practice.
 - Impact on families.
 - Cost effectiveness.
- Funding plan is consistent and adequate to achieve desired outcomes and takes into account sustainability.
- Staffing: hiring and capacity building plan is consistent with design and supports outcome achievement.
- Prevention planning:
 - Informed by community data.
 - Evaluated for impacts across the range of prevention investments.

- Maximizes available community resources.
- Includes mechanisms for communication and data sharing.
- Utilizes partnerships effectively.
- Demonstrates that resources and services are shared and/or integrated.
- Maximizes resources through cost saving partnerships, co-location and shared staffing.
- Ensures supportive public structures and resources.

The foundational principals, outcomes, and strategies presented above were developed by The California Prevention and Early Intervention/Citizen's Review Panel following a review of existing prevention efforts and were then aligned to the framework articulated in the following report: Daro, D., et.al. op. cit.