



Utilizing Implementation Science and Practice to Improve Child Welfare Services and Outcomes

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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Jordan Institute for Families



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CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



NIRN

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
RESEARCH NETWORK



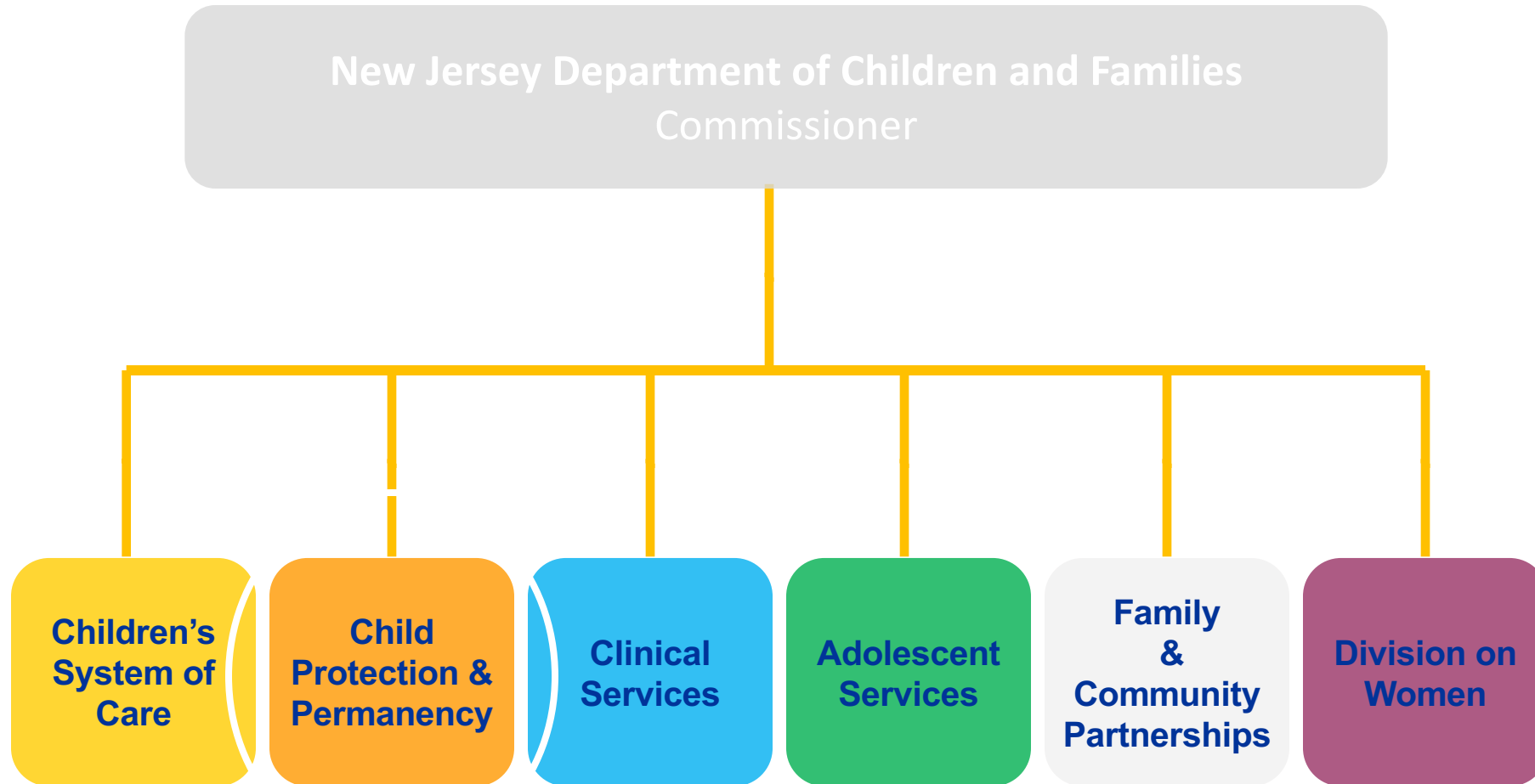
Department of Children and Families (NJ DCF)

Created in July 2006 in response to Class Action Litigation

First Cabinet-level Department devoted *exclusively* to serving and safeguarding children and families

Ensure the safety, well-being and success of children and families, in partnership with NJ's communities

Operating Areas





Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P)

New Jersey's child welfare agency

Investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect and addresses child welfare concerns

Funds all services for children and families

Provides foster care and adoption services

Funds all services for youth aging out of system



Two Approaches to Improving Services for Children and Families



Internal Strategies



- Hiring additional staff & reducing caseloads; and creation of the Child Welfare Training Academy



- Improving the quality of case practice by establishing a Case Practice Model

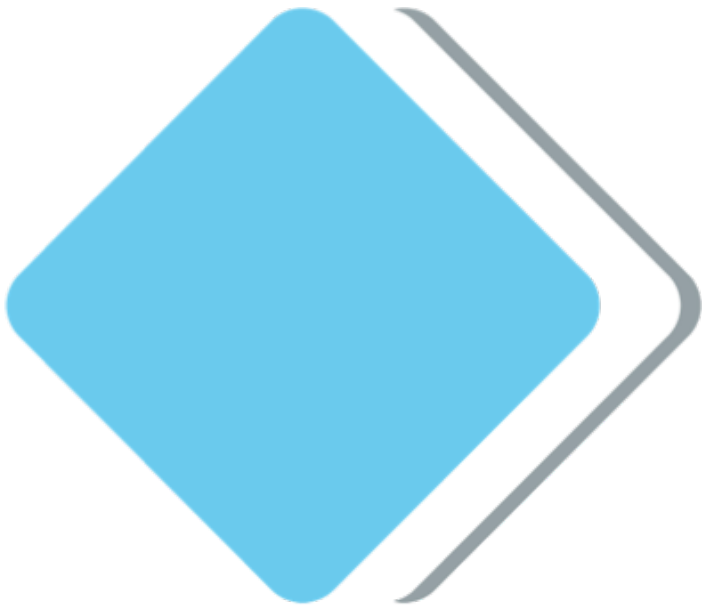


- Creation of Office of Performance Management and Accountability; and making a commitment to managing by data

Results from Internal Strategies



Significant Shift in
Population Served



Majority of Children Being
Served in Their Own Homes



Staff Now Identifying Service
Needs of Families Being Served



External Strategies



864 providers in the community that we purchase services from (i.e., FPS, mental health, visitation, parent aides) – primarily legacy contracts automatically renewed annually






- No data to show relevance to needs of population being served and no performance based contracting strategies



- Field and funding was moving towards integration of evidence-based models – so we built into our strategic plan a priority to shift the service array to evidence-based/promising practices







Questions We Considered

- 
- What are we buying?
- 
- Who is it for?
- 
- What should happen, improve, change?
 - How long will it take?
 - How will we measure?
 - Where's the evidence?



EBP Challenges

- 
- Not every EBP is created equally
- 
- Role clarity
- 
- Building evidence
- 
- Understanding and incorporating implementation science and practice



How We Began: Infrastructure and Authority

- ◆ • Creation of the Office of Strategic Development (OSD) to lead this priority
- ◆ • Cmr directive to funnel all new RFP's through OSD for logic model development and clear articulation of desired outcomes
- ◆



What We Did to Address the Complexity

Infrastructure and Expertise:



Hire staff with Implementation Science knowledge



Develop roadmap for program development capacity building and oversight



Assign Program Leads select CP&P core services that are being modernized to implement the roadmap






Created **Chief Program Officer** position to elevate the significance of this body of work






What We Did to Address the Complexity

Collaboration:

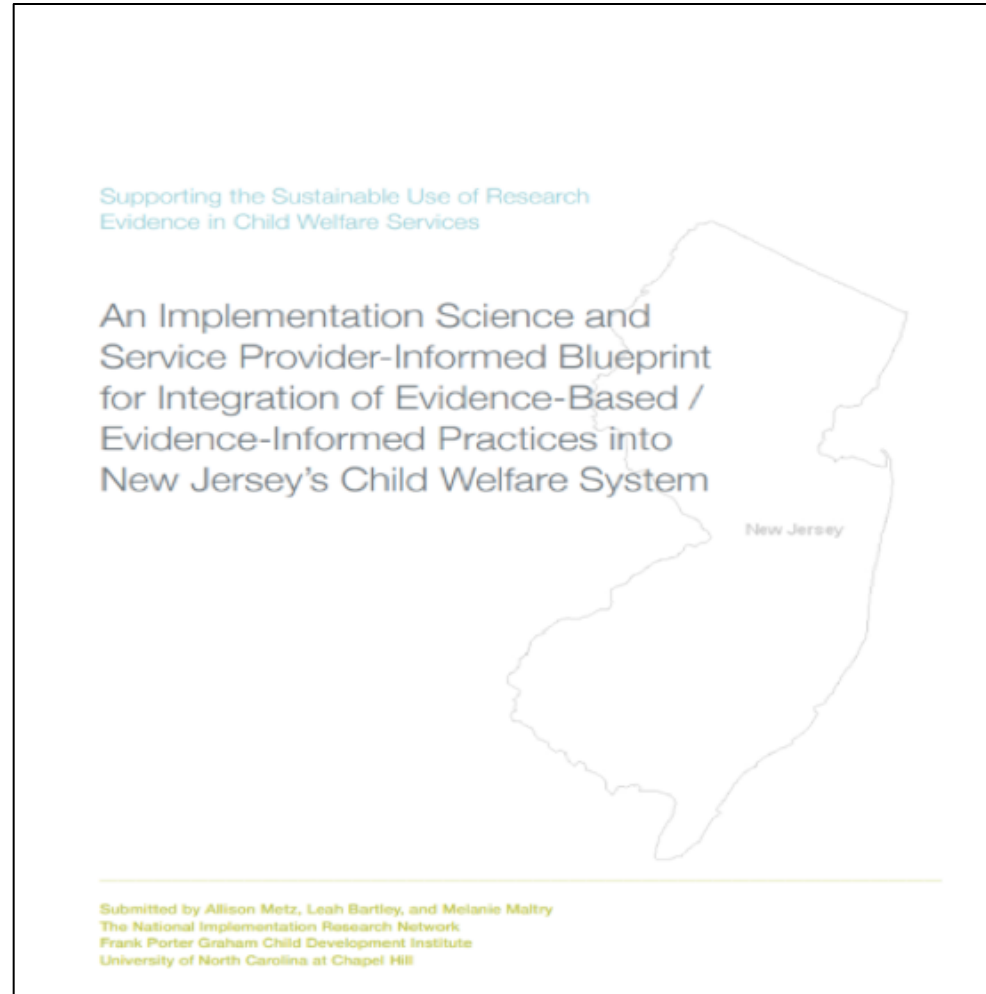
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- Internal
 - OSD working across divisions and offices
- 
- External
 - Establishment of Evidence-Based Advisory Group
- 
- National
 - Discussion with Annie E. Casey Foundation



To *Really* Shift

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- Goal: Increase access and appropriate utilization of EB/EI programming to improve outcomes for children and families
- 
- Process: Develop a blueprint for how DCF and provider partners will approach the successful integration of EB/EI programming into the service array
- 

NJ Blueprint for Integration of Evidence Based/Informed Practices





How Will the Blueprint Be Used?

- Clear definitions for levels of evidence for evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising practices
- Guidelines for the selection evidence-based practices and programs (EBPs), evidence-informed practices (EIPs), and promising practices
- Guidelines for quality implementation, evaluation, and quality improvement practices
- Guidelines for developing enabling context for evidence-based interventions






“We Make it Jersey!”

- Purchased Service Playbook for DCF
- Home Improvements, not knocking down the house!
- Improvements Made – Internal and External
- What's Next






NJ Strategies Underway

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- Illustrate how implementation science principles can be used at the state and local level to build evidence for a child welfare service model
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- Demonstrate the importance of using a disciplined and intentional teaming structure to move work forward
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- Show how procurement processes can incorporate implementation science best practices



NJ Child Welfare Service Array

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- New Visitation Continuum Model of Service
 - Family Preservation Services
 - Supportive Housing for Child Welfare Involved Families
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- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (TF CBT)
 - Mommy & Me SUD Treatment Programs
- 



Thank You!

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