# Key Components of Effective Service Delivery for Children and Youth with Support Needs and Their Families

MCFD Symposium Speaker Series November 28, 2023

Presenter: Pat Mirenda, Ph.D.

# Land Acknowledgement

■ I want to begin by acknowledging that the land on which I live and work is the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish People, including the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl'ílwəta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. I offer my respect to Elders past and present and my gratitude to be allowed to support children, youth, and families who live on this land.

# Agenda

- Background and brief overview of the research process
- Key elements for service delivery
  - General
  - Mental health
  - Indigenous
- Barriers
- Assets and Solutions
- Implementation Science

# Background

- Invited to join the CYSN team at the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) in November, 2022
- Commissioned to review the research on the components of service delivery for children and youth with support needs
- Report was made public in February, 2023

#### Key Components of Effective Service Delivery for Children and Youth with Support Needs and Their Families:

A Research Review and Analysis

Pat Mirenda, Ph.D.

Submitted to the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth

FEBRUARY 2023

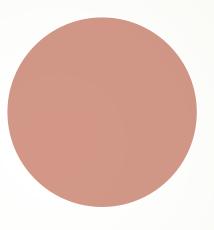


#### **Process**

- Literature search, peer-reviewed research articles written in English and published since 2000
  - Review of research about effective service delivery for a specific population (e.g., new immigrant families, Indigenous families) OR
  - Description of a service delivery system/ model/program with interview, survey, or focus group data from parents, service providers, and/or administrators
- ■50 studies met the criteria: 22 focused on general service delivery, 13 on mental health service delivery, and 15 on service delivery for Indigenous CYSN

# Key Elements: General

Family-centred care



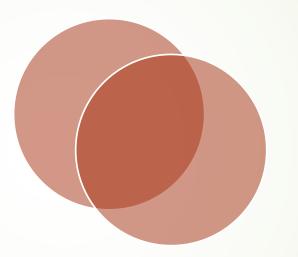
# Family-Centred Care

(Rosenbaum et al., 1998)

- Parents/caregivers know their children best and want the best for their children
  - Encourage parent/family decision-making, build on strengths
- Families are different and unique
  - Choice and flexibility: what works for one family may not work for another
- Optimal child functioning occurs within a supportive family and community context; The child is affected by the stress and coping of other family members
  - Family supports (coaching, counselling, education, respite care) are just as important as child supports

# Key Elements: General

Family-centred care



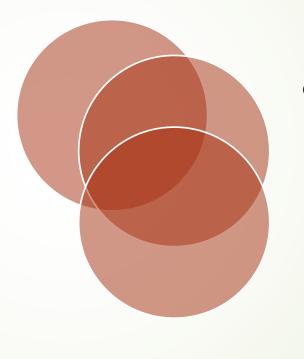
Cross-sector collaboration

#### Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Services should be coordinated and seamless:
  - MCFD, Health, Education and Child Care, Mental Health and Addictions, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Housing, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, etc.
  - Requires cross-Ministry planning on the front end, not as an afterthought

# Key Elements: General





Cross-sector collaboration

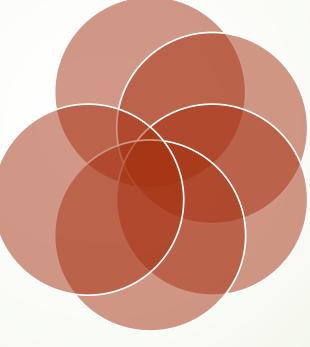
Care coordination across therapies

#### Care Coordination

- Family assigned to a navigator who coordinates care across sectors/Ministries and locations
- For example, between a local child development centre/pilot FCC and
  - The local health unit
  - The local school district
  - Mental health services
  - Other community resources

# Key Elements: General

Family-centred care



Care coordination across therapies

Cross-sector

collaboration

Services
customized to
meet individual
needs

Sufficient, equitable, accountable funding

## Funding and Customized Services

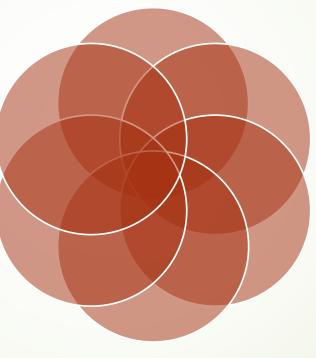
- Adequate funding is required in order for services to be customized with regard to
  - Intensity (hours per week/month)
  - Duration (for how long?) and
  - Quality (evidence-based? delivered by adequately trained and experienced professionals?)

# Key Elements: General

Family-centred care

Staff training related to the service model

Services
customized to
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Sufficient, equitable, accountable funding Cross-sector collaboration

Care coordination across therapies

# Staff Training

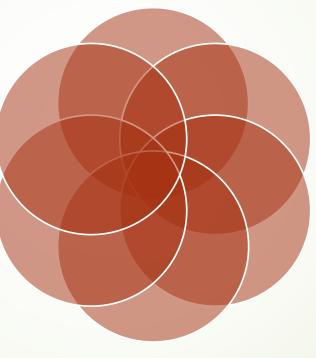
- A new model of service delivery cannot operate effectively without staff who are adequately trained:
  - On cultural competence and safety
  - On administrative technologies (record-keeping, etc.)
  - On technology for information-sharing that protects privacy
  - On the system set up for care coordination and case management
  - On assessment tools that might be required

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Sufficient, equitable, accountable funding Cross-sector collaboration

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#### Additional Elements: Mental Health



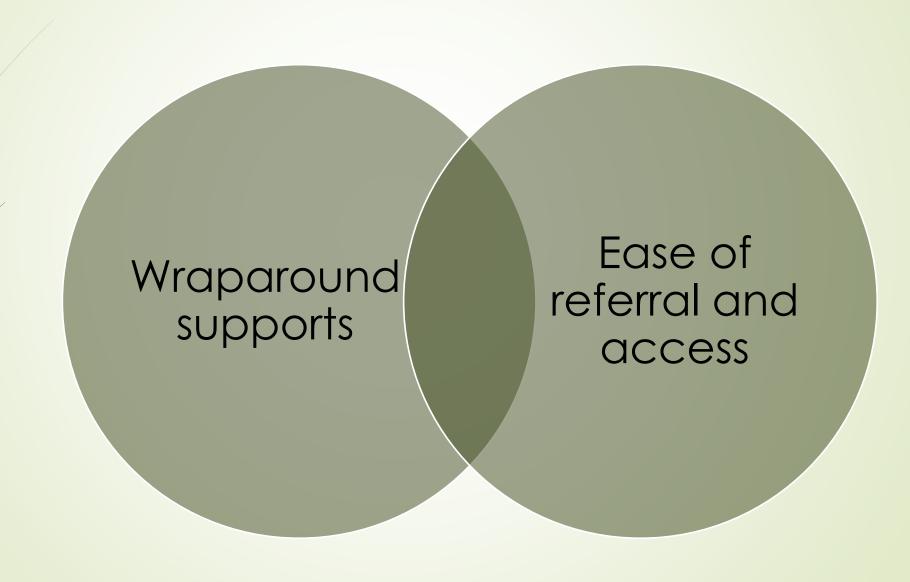
# Wraparound

- Wraparound is a team-based planning process that
  - is child- and family-centered, with family voice and choice at the forefront
  - builds on child and family strengths,
  - is culturally relevant, strengths-based, and flexible, and
  - is developed and implemented based on an inter-agency, community- based, collaborative process that is outcomes-focussed

# Wraparound

- Requires a Wraparound care coordinator with a low caseload (e .g ., 8-12 families at a time) who facilitates this process and directs its four phases:
  - Engagement,
  - Plan development,
  - Implementation, and
  - Transition

#### Additional Elements: Mental Health



#### Ease of Referral and Access

- Need for mental health services is often especially urgent
- "No wrong door" policy
  - All "child-serving systems" youth justice, mental health, child welfare/protection, disability services and supports, and education – collaborate and share responsibility for these services

## Additional Elements: Indigenous Care

Embed Indigenous culture, values, and practices; "Two-eyed seeing"

# Two-Eyed Seeing

- Created by honoured Mi'kmaq Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall
- Based on the idea that "one can learn to take the perspective of seeing from one eye the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye, the strengths of Western ways of knowing, and use both of these perspectives for the benefit of those being served" (Hutt-MacLeod et al., 2019)

## Additional Elements: Indigenous Care

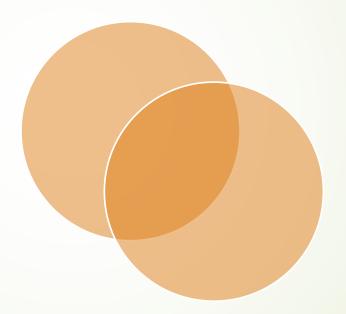
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Support the whole family

# Support the Whole Family

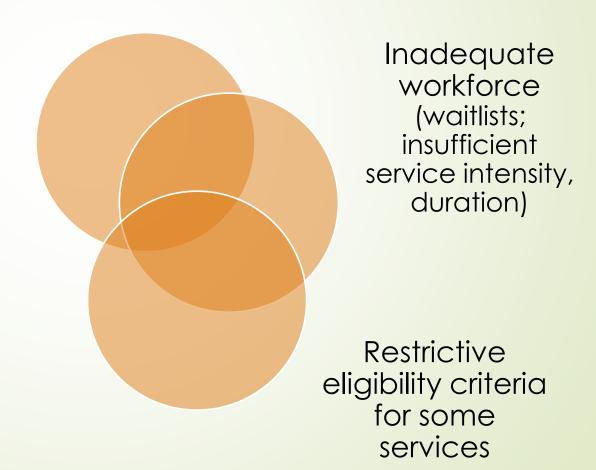
- Indigenous families often seek support for the family, not for a child/youth
- Support the social determinants of health beyond those that directly affect children and youth, including
  - economic stability,
  - housing,
  - access to clean water and healthy food,
  - employment, etc.

Inadequate funding (resources, training)

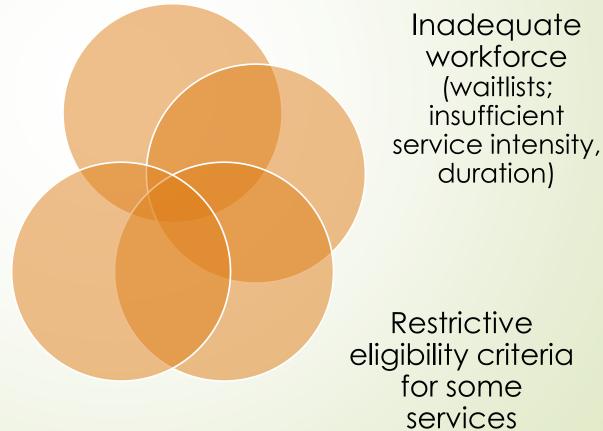


Inadequate
workforce
(waitlists;
insufficient
service intensity,
duration)

Inadequate funding (resources, training)



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Siloed services and supports

Inadequate funding (resources, training)

Limited family choice and accessibility

Siloed services and supports

Inadequate
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Restrictive eligibility criteria for some services

#### **Assets**

Current MCFD
engagement
with families,
service providers,
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**Existing network**of CDCs with
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Transformed
CYSN
service
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system

Substantial
funding increase
+ cross-sector
plan to enhance
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Cross-Ministry
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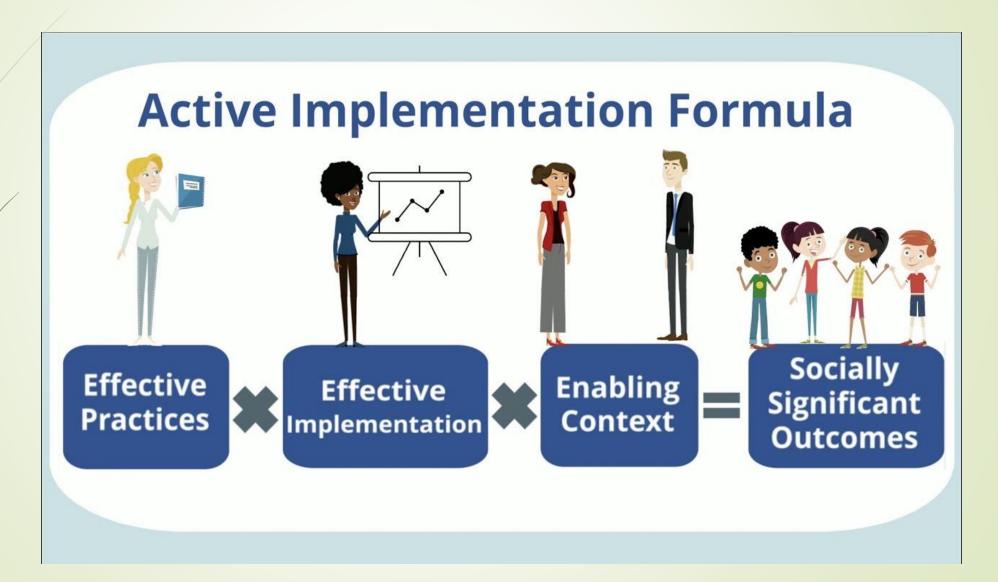
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System
navigator
assigned to every
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# Implementation Science

"Implementation is a process, not an event. The process is marked by implementation stages that have been identified in practice...[and that take] time and effort. Exploration, Installation, Initial Implementation, and Full Implementation Stages guide organization and system investments in innovations supported by implementation best practices (Fixsen et al., 2019)

# Do It the Right Way...



existing network of community partners, P-SIs, and others with expertise Substantial
funding increase
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**Existing network of CDCs** with
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Current MCFD engagement with families, service providers, experts Transformed
CYSN
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System navigator assigned to every family



#### References

- Hutt-MacLeod, D., Rudderham, H. Sylliboy, A., Sylliboy-Denny, M., Leibenberg, L., Denny, J., & Boksa, P. (2019). Eskasoni First Nation's transformation of youth mental healthcare: Partnership between a Mi'kmaq community and the ACCESS Open Minds research project in implementing innovative practice and service evaluation. Early Intervention in Psychiatry, 13 (Suppl.1), 42-47.
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