Best Start Building Stronger Families Framework

Best Start Commission Retreat
June 26, 2013
Best Start Inquiry

Achieve clarity and common understanding of the following:

• Core results for families and communities
• Strategies that will be used
• How the strategies will achieve the core results
• How progress will be measured
Best Start: A Place-based Approach

• Best Start is **not** a program that focuses on specific problems that families face or a specific set of services needed to “solve” problems for individual families

• Best start **is** a place-based approach that focuses on strengthening families and the social and physical environments where they live, work, and play
Best Start is not the typical government or foundation funded program, which merely supplies a fraction of the needed financial resources for direct services….Best Start gives the community the skills, tools and resources they need to, in effect, chart their own future.

- Best Start Community Partnership Member
I now see the goal of Best Start is not a band aid; it’s a cure.

- Best Start Parent
Best Start Inquiry

• Greater focus
• Evidence/promising practices
• Clear results
• Accountability
Building Stronger Families Framework

• Families are central to ensuring that children are healthy, safe and prepared for school
• Families thrive in the context of communities that provide them with support, services and opportunities to connect with one another
Families support and promote the healthy development, school readiness and well-being of young children.
Family Capacities

• Able to effectively manage everyday stress in daily life, responsibilities and parenting
• Act on accurate information about children’s developmental needs
• Respond warmly and consistently and develop positive relationships that nurture their children’s social and emotional competence
I didn’t know I had to read to my child; I learned how important this is.

- Best Start Parent
Families support and promote the healthy development, school readiness and well-being of young children.

Social connections

Concrete supports

Family capacities
Social Connections

• Receiving and providing emotional, informational, instrumental or spiritual support through a network of friends, neighbors, family members and others

• Support for reducing stress, solving problems, and sharing the joy, pain and uncertainties that come with the parenting role
East LA is sometimes viewed as desert and Best Start has helped bring us parents together to support each other and lend each other a helping hand – like bringing water to create an oasis.

- Best Start Parent
Families support and promote the healthy development, school readiness and well-being of young children.
Concrete Supports

• Being able to identify, find and receive basic necessities for your family
• Seeking help when necessary; knowing where to turn in a crisis
• Learning to navigate service systems to get specialized services as needed for children or parents
I am single mother of three children, two of them have autism. When I joined Best Start I didn’t know how to help my children. Best Start parents supported me and helped me find resources…I found my voice and I am now a support to other parents.

-Best Start Parent
Communities support and promote the healthy development and well-being of families with young children.
System of Service and Supports

- Families have access to a system of services and supports that meets their needs
- Community services and supports are grounded in building protective factors for families
- Informal supports may be more important than services for most families
I’m part of the mental health agency, which has been here for 31 years. We were not in collaboration with other agencies but now we are working with them.

- Best Start Community Partner
Communities support and promote the healthy development and well-being of families with young children

Coordinated services and supports

Community places and spaces

Shared vision and collective action
Community Places and Spaces

- Families have access to safe places and spaces that promote healthy living and encourage social interaction
Parent mobilization through Best Start made it so parents can go to the park and feel comfortable. Children are now exercising and they have access to a park parents could not go to before….We are also going to talk with police to monitor the park to keep our park safe.

- Best Start Parent
Communities support and promote the healthy development and well-being of families with young children.

- Coordinated services and supports
- Community places and spaces
- Shared vision and collective action
Shared Vision and Collective Action

• Families actively participate in community networks
• Community members have a shared vision and act collectively to improve the policies, services and environments that impact families
One of the most valuable things provided by Best Start is the opportunity to develop leadership and know our voice is valuable.

- Best Start Parent

Best Start has been a vehicle for residents and organizations to come together to affect change.

- Best Start Community Partner
**Strategic Plan Strategies**

- Direct Services (Family Strengthening)
- Community Capacity Building
- Systems Improvement
Criteria for Activities

• Align with the core results for families and communities
• Are evidence-based or promising practices
• Outcomes are achievable and measurable within 5-10 years
• Offer the potential for resource mobilization and sustainability
## Strategies & Activities

### Direct Services
- Home Visitation
- Parent Coaching and Education
- Public Education related to Direct Services
- Parent Support Approaches
- Family Engagement in Early Care and Education Programs

### Community Capacity Building
- Community Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Community Integration and Organization Capacity Building
- Improvements in the built environment

### Systems Improvement
- Impact and Influence on Public Policy
- Public Education
- Workforce Development
- Resource Mobilization and Investments
- Information, Resources and Referral
- Health Access
- Data Systems Integration
Measuring Progress
(How we will know we are making a difference)

Accountability Framework for Best Start

Level 1: Population Conditions

Level 2: Core Results for Communities

Level 3: Core Results for Families

Level 4: Performance Measures and Learning
Key Indicators for the Accountability Framework

What we will be using to measure our progress

Accountability Level 1: Population Conditions
(measured to provide context)

**EXAMPLE INDICATORS:**

- % of children 0-5 with chronic medical conditions
- % of parents of children 0-5 who smoke
- % of children 0-5 living in poverty
## Accountability Level 2: Core Results for Communities

### EXAMPLE INDICATORS

#### System of Services and Supports
- % of parents who report that during their child’s first year, a professional (such as a nurse or social worker) visited their home to provide information about parenting
- % of parents who needed childcare who found it very or somewhat easy to obtain

#### Community Spaces and Places
- % of parents who report having a park, playground or other safe place for their child to play that they can get to easily

#### Shared Vision and Collective Action
- % of residents who give their community a positive rating in how well people work together to improve their community
Accountability Level 3: Core Results for Families

EXAMPLE INDICATORS

Family Capacities
• % of parents who answer at least 50% of research-based statements about child development correctly
• % of families who read to their children every day

Social Connections
• % of parents who report that people in their neighborhood help each other out
• % of parents who feel that they have someone to talk to when they need advice on how to raise their child

Concrete Supports
• % of parents who know where to go when they feel they need assistance helping their child learn
Accountability Level 4: Performance Measurement & Learning

EXAMPLE INDICATORS

- # of families served
- # of families engaged in First 5 LA community activities
- Capacity of the Community Partnerships to carry-out their roles
When will the results be observable?

- **Community**
  - FY13-14: 1 year
  - 3-5 years
  - 5-7 years
  - 7-10+ years

- **Neighborhood**
  - 3-5 years
  - 5-7 years
  - 7-10+ years

- **Program Participants**
  - 3-5 years
  - 5-7 years
  - 7-10+ years

- **Investment**
  - 5-7 years
  - 7-10+ years

**Improvements in**
- Performance Measures
- Community Results
- Family Results
- Systems
Best Start 1.0 vs. Best Start 2.0
What’s Different?

- Clear definition of success
- Grounded in evidence/promising practices
- Articulation of the relationship between results, strategies and activities
- Accountability Framework
Connection to our L3 Work

External forces influence strategic focus and integration

- Leadership & Governance
- Internal Systems & Infrastructure
- External Relationships
- Programs/Initiatives (Including Best Start)
- Strategic Focus, Impact & Role
Discussion

• What about the Building Stronger Families Framework is most compelling to you?
• Does this framework move Best Start forward in the right direction?
• Can you support the Best Start Framework’s core family and community results?
• Does the concept of a menu of activities make sense? If so, are the criteria acceptable?
• If First 5 LA tracks results at these four levels, does that provide the Board with the information you most want to know about Best Start?