A Discussion on Child Abuse Prevention

First 5 LA
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SHIELDS for Families

**SHIELDS** is a non-profit agency serving the Compton and Watts communities of South Los Angeles. We provide 35 programs, act as the lead agency in 5 collaboratives and a partner in 4, with over 60 partnerships with agencies serving this community. We currently have approximately 380 employees and an annual budget of $26 million, involving over 50 contracts from multiple sources. SHIELDS programs are offered in multiple sites in the community, including 22 school locations.
SHIELDS for Families

SHIELDS programs include:

- 10 Substance Abuse Programs
- 12 Mental Health Programs
- Community Assessment Center
- 3 Youth Programs
- 5 Child Development Programs
- Family Preservation
- Family Support
- Prevention Initiative

- Vocational Services Center
- Adoption Support
- Federal Healthy Start Program
- Partnership for Families
- Jordan Downs Family First
- Legal Services
- 126 Units of Low-income Housing
- Transportation/Food Bank
Role of CBOs In Child Abuse Prevention
Role of CBOs

Three Primary Roles:

1. Knowledgeable
2. Flexible
3. Advocate
Role of CBOs

1. Knowledgeable:
   - Community
   - Families
   - Strengths
   - Challenges
   - Natural Supports
   - Resources
   - Partnerships
Role of CBOs

2. Flexible:

- Integrate Services
- Blend Funding
- Leverage Resources
- Barter
- Respond Rapidly
- Think Out of the Box
Role of CBOs

3. Advocate:

• Child Welfare System
• Policy Change
• Legislative Change
• Empower Families to advocate for change
Impact of Budget Deficit on CBOs
Impact of the Budget Deficit

The Budget Deficit is combined with a increased emphasis on accountability in an effort to spend funds “more effectively”.

For CBOs, the impact has created multiple challenges.
Impact of the Budget Deficit

Challenge 1: Agencies dependent on one funding source have been unable to sustain level services; difficult to access other sources because of cuts across systems and increased requirements to access funding.
Impact of the Budget Deficit

Challenge 2: Smaller agencies can not survive cuts that eliminate operational costs; do not have infrastructure to respond to multiple audits or requests for evaluation, outcome data, EBPs; resulting in closure or assumed.
Impact of the Budget Deficit

Challenge 3: Larger agencies can absorb cuts but with increased accountability, spend less money on services and more on justifying fiscal and programmatic outcomes, reducing the number of families served.
Impact of the Budget Deficit

Challenge 4: Increased accountability has forced the use of Evidence Based Practices that may not reflect the needs of the community, decreasing the effectiveness of services.
Impact of the Budget Deficit

Challenge 5: Community has lost many of the “niche” agencies that responded from the community to address unique needs not accounted for in traditional funding.
Recommendations for System Change
Recommendations for Change

1. Talk to Each Other

Systems continue to operate in silos; find out what each other is doing and how you can work together to maximize resources (like CBOs have to do).

Example: PFF
2. Creative Funding

Develop mechanisms to blend, match, integrate funding streams; decreases administrative costs, oversight and maximizes resources.

Example: First 5 Perinatal Treatment
Recommendations for Change

3. Sustain Services

Instead of re-issuing RFPs with enormous cost and disruption of services, monitor the system in place; provide TA and eliminate those not able to perform. Example: Healthy Start
Recommendations for Change

4. Support Accountability

If you want effectiveness, then provide the funding, resources and support needed. Pay for evaluation, training; re-evaluate unrealistic parameters (10% indirect limits).
Example: PIDP
Recommendations for Change

5. Listen to Community

Hear what the families, community leaders and CBOs have to say; develop your services systems to match the needs.

Example: Compton Office
Recommendations for Change

6. Work with the Community

Instead of watching agencies fail, provide TA and support. Encourage agencies to support each other, collaborate, partner, merge. Example: POF
7. Advocate for Finance Reform in Child Welfare

Use your legislative voice to eliminate a funding system that is based on removing children from their homes.
Discussion