Collaboration through the lens of a County Initiative: Cuyahoga County – Invest in Children

Rob Fischer, Ph.D.
Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development
Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Case Western Reserve University

fischer@case.edu

ACF - Collaboration in Early Care & Education
May 24-25, 2010; Washington, DC
Main themes

- Changing nature of collaboration on early childhood services in Cuyahoga County
- Collaboration’s role in -
  - Framing child indicators for use in mobilizing and monitoring
  - Developing programmatic refinements
- Providing leadership in developing State’s approach
Program strategies to support key outcomes

Invest in Children Logic Model

Strategies

- Effective Parents and Families
  Prenatal to three system

- Safe & Healthy Children
  Access & utilization of Preventative health care

- Children Prepared For School
  Early Care and Education System

- Community Committed to Children

Programs

- Home visiting
- Early Literacy and Learning
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Healthy Start Outreach
- Medical Home
- Primary Lead Prevention
- Family Child Care Homes Regional System
- Professional development For Centers
- T.E.A.C.H.
- UPK
- Special Needs Child Care
- Communications campaign
- Community mobilization
- Disseminate findings

Outputs

- Number of children and families reached
- Children reached early and with continuity
- Families effectively access range of available services
- Caregivers effectively engaged

Intermediate Outcomes

- Parent and caregivers have increased knowledge and skills
- Children receive appropriate care at home and in other settings
- Children develop appropriately

Longer-term Outcomes

- Positive movement on community-level child well-being indicators
- Community ethic around our youngest children
## Focuses of evaluation in IIC

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<td>Building data systems</td>
<td>Continuing to track scope and reach</td>
<td>Continue to track scope and reach</td>
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<td>Establishing baseline</td>
<td>Informing program development (child care capacity/quality studies; child abuse and neglect)</td>
<td>Increased focus on child outcomes</td>
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<td>Evaluating programs as taken to scale</td>
<td>Evaluation of new pilot programs (primary lead prevention and early learning)</td>
<td>Evaluation of new pilot programs (UPK, medical home, early childhood mental health)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracking child well being indicators</td>
<td>Continue to track child well being</td>
<td>Preparation for longitudinal study</td>
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Systems for promoting school readiness

- Nine domains*:
  - Home visiting/family support/parent counseling
  - Foster care/child protective services
  - Registered child care
  - Head Start
  - State and local Pre-K
  - Medicaid, SCHIP, EPSDT
  - Immunizations and lead screenings
  - IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act)
  - Kindergarten instruments to assess school readiness

With the launch of the County’s Invest in Children in 1999, a study of the effort commenced, including tracking indicators of child well-being.

- Tracking trends in population and birth characteristics
- Tracking mobilizing indicators such as family self-sufficiency and child poverty, child care vouchers, birth outcomes, child maltreatment, child health insurance, enrollment in regulated child care
High poverty but less cash aid
Better prenatal care but birth outcomes tough to influence

![Graph showing trends in inadequate prenatal care, premature births, and low birth weight from 1990 to 2005.](image)
More children have health insurance
More children enrolled in early care and education
Less child maltreatment but risk remains the same.
Invest in Children: How do you measure a “system”?

![Graph showing percentage of children in various childcare scenarios from 1999 to 2007.](image-url)
Children Served by Invest in Children Programs, 2007
(Including Healthy Start/Medicaid, Newborn Home Visiting, Family Child Care, Ongoing Home Visiting, Early Intervention, and Special Needs Child Care)
(\(n=65,230\) unduplicated children under age 6)

- Children Served by ICC, 2007
- Suburban Municipalities/Cleveland Wards
- Cuyahoga County Districts

Data from ICC Child Registry, maintained by the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University

Only 61,888 children had geocodable addresses
Improvements on a well-being indicator but...

Outreach efforts were very successful at enrolling eligible children in Healthy Start (SCHIP)

The number of children 0-6 without health insurance declined from 10.5% in 1999 to 3.98% in 2008.

Should we celebrate a victory? No.. Data showed poor utilization rates for well child visits.

• Medical Home Pilot Program (in process) 86% of the participating families completed all recommended infant well child visits compared with 42% for all children covered by Medicaid.
State-level developments

- Governor’s Early Childhood Cabinet
- Center for Early Childhood Development within state department of education
  - Address all aspects of children’s physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development.
  - Focus on comprehensive (physical and behavioral health and developmental) preventative supports and services for children and their families beginning with the prenatal period.
Early Childhood Development System

Comprehensive health services that meet children’s vision, hearing, nutrition, behavioral, and oral health medical needs.

Early care and education opportunities in nurturing environments where children can learn what they need to succeed in school and in life.

Early identification, assessment and appropriate services for children with special health care needs, disabilities, or developmental delays.

Economic and parenting supports to ensure children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.
Systems scan observations

- Efforts underway to better integrate and coordinate the many parts of the system
- Wealth of data to inform systems-level decision making but systematic access still needed to key data - Head Start students records, lead screenings, kindergarten readiness assessment records
- Structural and institutional factors challenge a seamless system from birth to kindergarten
- Other efforts/initiatives need to be better integrated into the county’s service system - Voices for Ohio’s Children, Children’s Defense Fund – Ohio, Ohio Groundwork Campaign, Build Ohio, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association
Risk/Service Use Ratio by Census Tract
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Risk/Service Use Ratio
0.4 - 0.6 (45 tracts) Service Use Exceeds Risk Level
0.7 - 0.8 (64 tracts)
0.9 - 1.1 (212 tracts) Risk Equals Service Use Level
1.2 - 1.5 (89 tracts)
1.6 - 2.4 (29 tracts) Risk Exceeds Service Use Level
Suppressed (32 tracts)

Prepared by: Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University
Conclusion/Next Steps

- **Maintenance of collaborative over time**
  - Shifting funding environment
  - Shifting focal outcomes within collaboration

- **Formulation of a seamless system faces challenges**
  - Programmatic targeting leads to transition issues
  - Funding stream constraints
  - Lack of willingness to engage in a system view
  - Effectively incorporating K-3 in system

- **More data needed**
  - Data on quality of service/settings and relative value
  - Data on critical milestones and outcomes (e.g., kindergarten readiness)