

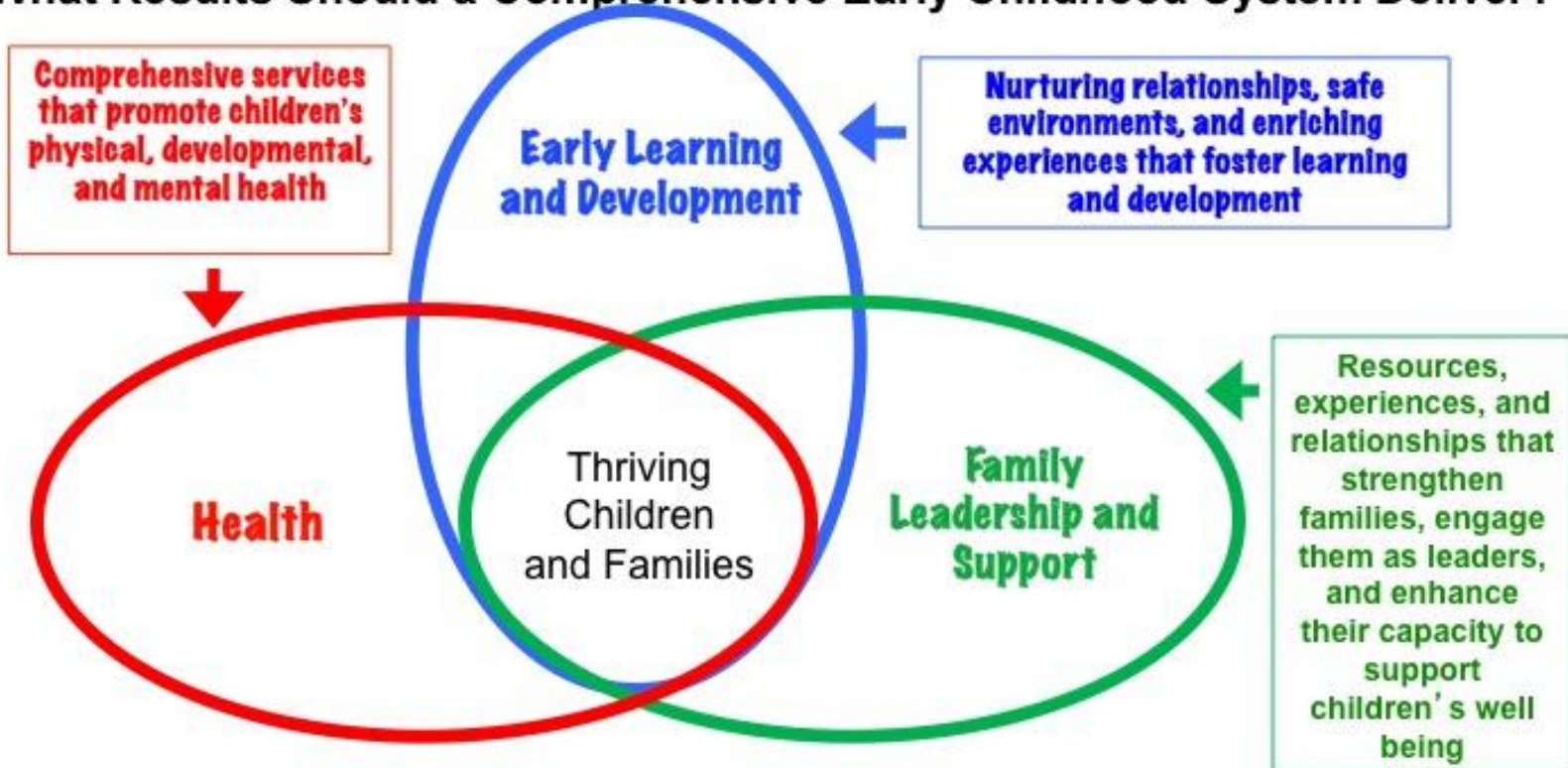
Integrating Systems: Improving Access to Better Serve Families



2011 STAM Meeting

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What Results Should a Comprehensive Early Childhood System Deliver?

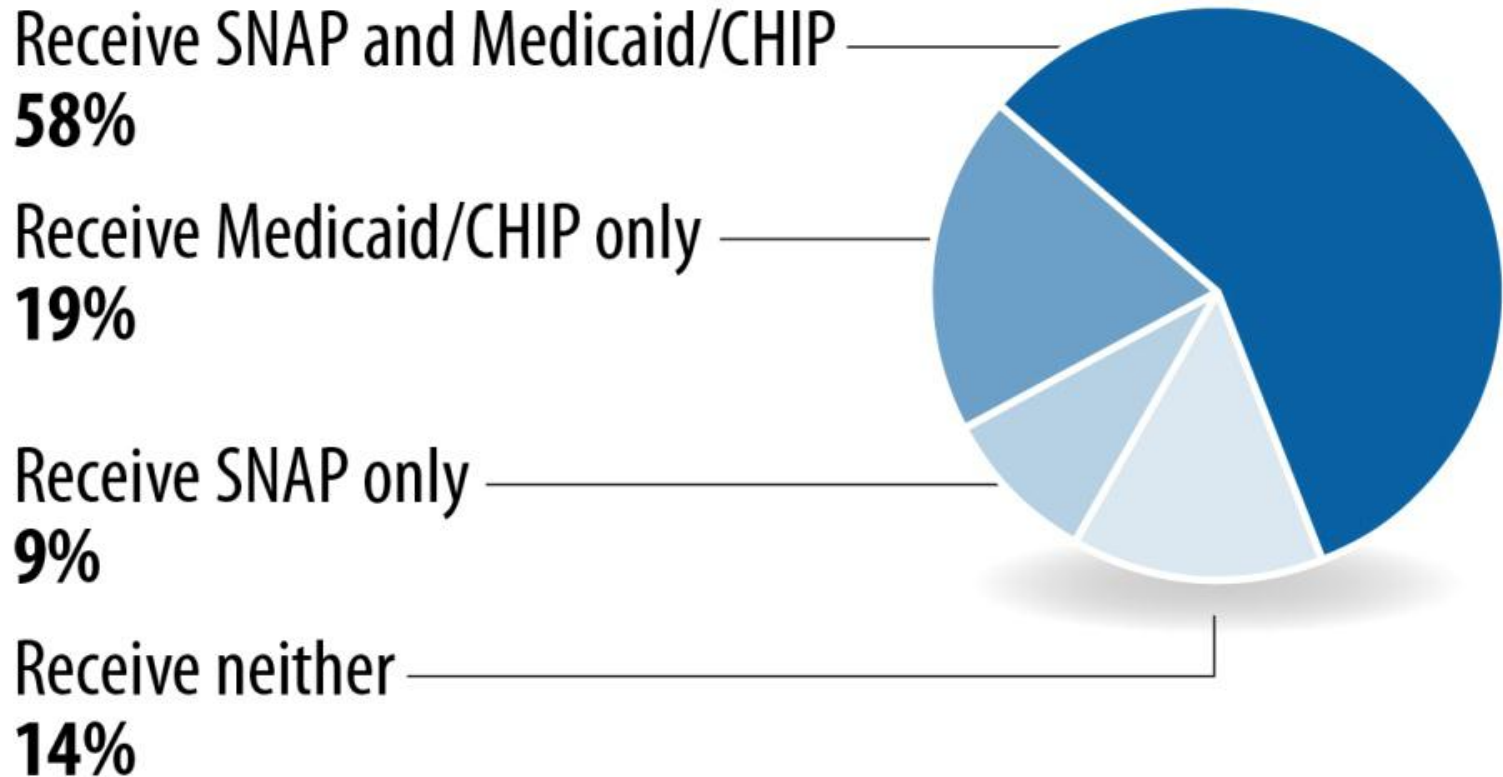


Values and Principles Optimally, a comprehensive early childhood system will:

- Reach all children and families, and as early as possible, with needed services and supports
- Genuinely include and effectively accommodate children with special needs
- Reflect and respect the strengths, needs, values, languages, cultures and communities of children and families
- Ensure stability and continuity of services along a continuum from prenatal into school entry and beyond
- Ease access for families and transitions for children
- Value parents as decision makers and leaders
- Catalyze and maximize investment and foster innovation

11

Many Children Likely Eligible for SNAP and Medicaid/CHIP Fail to Receive One or Both Supports (2009)



Note: Program participation among citizen children with family income below the poverty level and no reported health insurance. The data should be viewed with caution.

Source: CBPP analysis of a Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Promising Practices

- **A simple pathway to a package**
 - Screenings
 - Cross program matches for outreach
 - Worker prompts
- **Limiting in-person requirements**
 - Reducing documentation requirements
 - Phone and internet
- **Simplifying renewals/improving retention**
 - Improving reporting rules
- **Business Process Reengineering**
 - Process assessment for the package
- **Using data to provide feedback loop**

**Work Support
Strategies:**
Streamlining Access,
Strengthening Families



A Place for Child Care

- Goal = including child care subsidy programs in a coordinated system on work supports
 - Similarities and differences with other systems
 - Increasing access to SNAP, Medicaid for child care families/waiting lists
 - Making the child care application process easier for families
- Child Care subsidy programs are highly flexible with few federal rules on eligibility, intake, renewal (redetermination), etc.
- Smaller caseloads have led to misconceptions about the child care system and its lack of coordination with other systems
- The uniqueness of work requirements

Oregon: One-Stop Shops, Program Alignment

- Administrative rules, forms and branch processes are integrated and simplified as much as possible.
- 95% of ERDC clients also receive SNAP; that is where the effort is concentrated
- The TANF employment program (JOBS) uses the same child care provider requirements, approval and payment processes.
 - Responsibility for both child care programs resides in one central unit.



Oregon Keeps It Simple

| | ERDC SRS (Simplified Reporting System) | CRS (Change Reporting System) |
|--|--|---|
| When changes must be reported: | By the 10th of the month following the month of occurrence | Within 10 days of occurrence |
| Certification periods: | Up to 12 months | Up to 6 months |
| What income changes need to be reported: | Income goes above 130% FPL (SNAP countable income limit) | Changes in hourly or salary rate of pay or source of income |
| Address changes need to be reported when: | Not required to be reported | Residence or mailing address changes |
| Changes in employment need to be reported when: | There is loss of employment | Starting, changing or losing a job |
| Changes to filing group need to be acted on: | When a parent of a child or unborn or spouse of the caretaker moves in | All filing group changes |

Steps to Integration: A Child Care Lens

- Understanding your clients and service patterns
- Understanding Your Organizational/Administrative Context
 - Child care eligibility/case management functions
 - Provider functions
 - Implications for linking/integrating benefits



Steps to Integration: A Child Care Lens (continued)



- Walking Through the Process
 - Application
 - Eligibility Verification (relevant both for initial and ongoing verification)
 - Authorization period and reauthorization
 - Change reporting
 - Helping clients solve problems
- Developing a cumulative picture of challenges

Challenges

- Difficult to align end dates when families receive multiple benefits. Changes in household composition and unstable employment disrupt medical coverage and filing units.
- Changes reported for one program may affect eligibility/benefit level for another.
- Regulations from three federal agencies (DHHS, CMS, FNS) conflict.



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