

The Identification of Promising Practices Of the National Safe Start Demonstration Project

October 29, 2005

*Session Title: Building Capacity of
a National Initiative for Children
Exposed to Violence Through
Evaluation*



Association for the Study and
Development of Community



Project's Three Primary Purposes:

(1) Reduce the impact of family and community violence on young children

Project's Purposes Continued:

(2) Change systems-

Create a coordinated &
comprehensive system of care

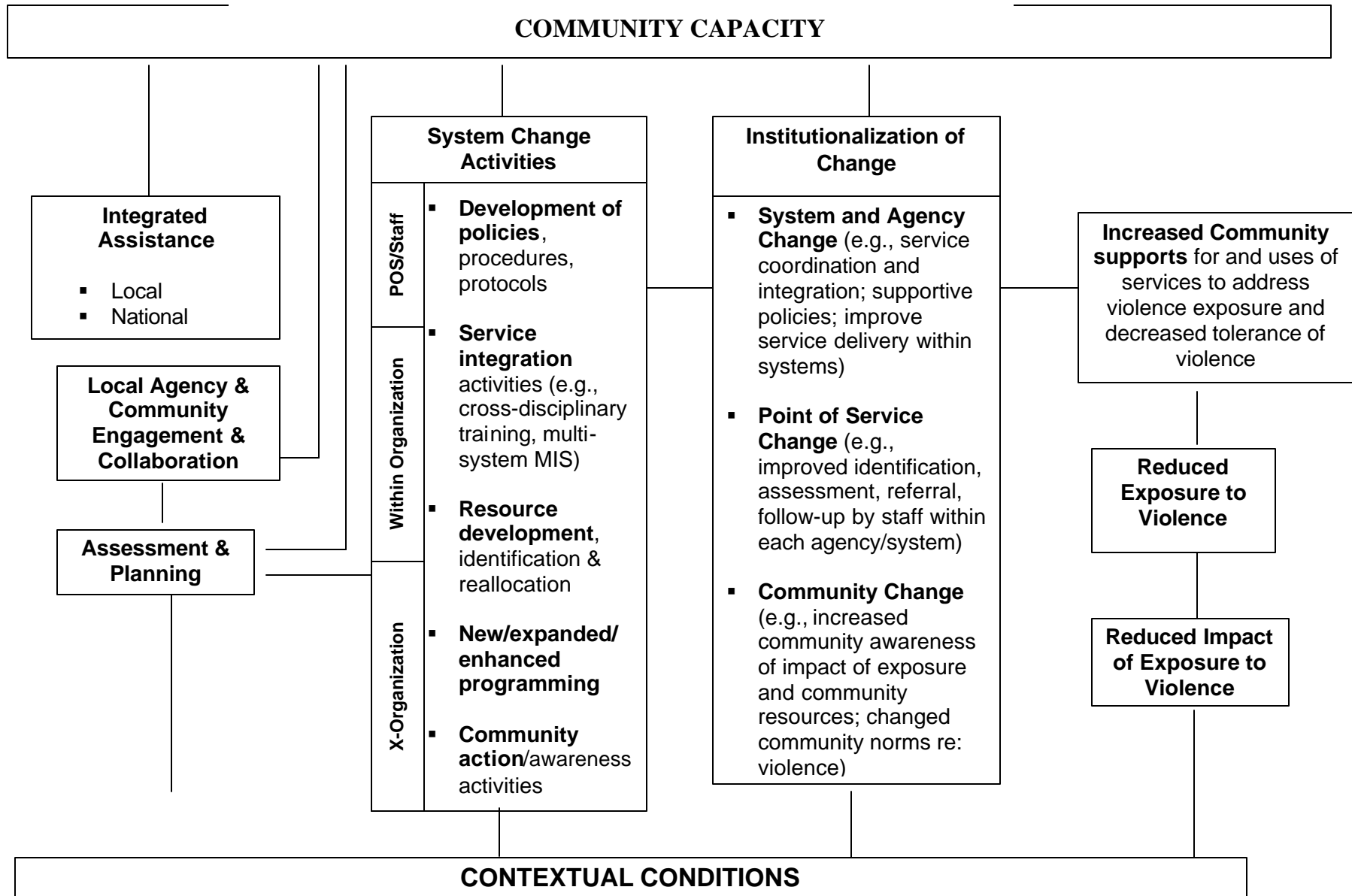
System of Care Includes:

- Early childhood education/development
- Health
- Mental health
- Family support and strengthening
- Domestic violence
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Crisis intervention
- Child welfare
- Law enforcement
- Courts
- Legal services

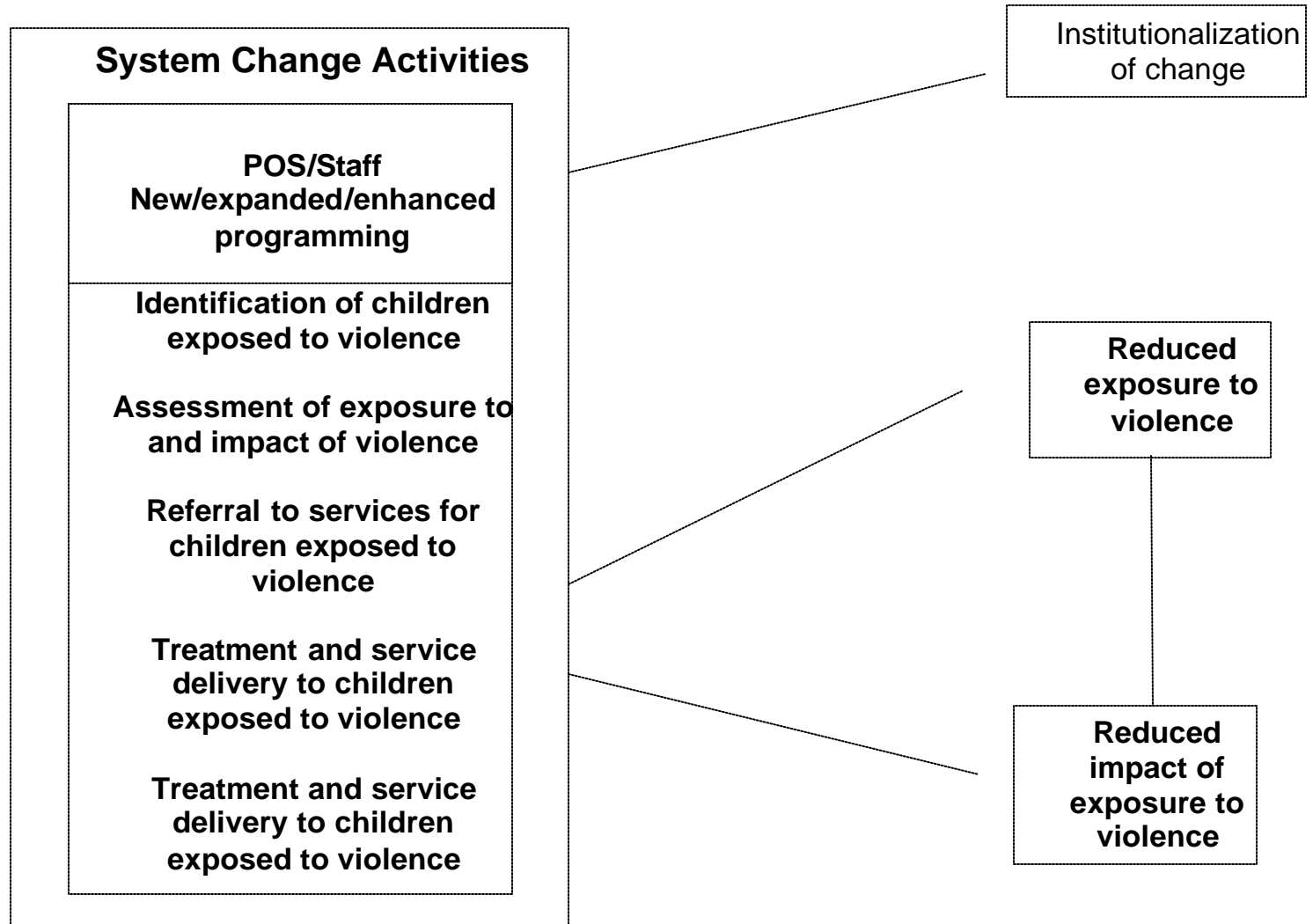
Project's Purposes Continued:

- (3) Improve interventions-
 - Quality of services
 - Access to services
 - Delivery of services

Safe Start Overall Logic Model



Safe Start Enhanced Intervention Logic Model



Evaluating Safe Start:

- National-local partnership
- Evaluation includes multiple levels of analysis
 - Point of Service Change
 - Agency Change
 - Cross-Agency (or System) Change
 - Community Change

Evaluating Safe Start:

- Evaluation creates various learning opportunities -
 - Reviewed system change strategies across sites and produced a special report

Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Validated collective struggle to
change the system of care

Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Provided an opportunity for sites to showcase what they have learned

Evaluation as a Learning Tool:

Created opportunity for sites to learn from their peers

Evaluation as a Learning Tool:



Provided the field with needed information

What Makes a Practice Promising?

- Preliminary evidence of effectiveness in specific interventions, practices, or activities;
- Successful use in at least one of the Safe Start Initiative sites;
- The potential for replication; and
- An improvement over previous practices.

Sources: Dare Mighty Things, Inc., Green, L.W. , Michael Patton (2001)

How were Promising Practices Identified?

- Review of site documents;
- Extraction of pertinent information;
- Confirmation of information, collection of further data, and clarification;
- Entry of the information into the Promising Practices Data Matrix; and
- Selection of Promising Practices.

Review of Documents:

- The 2004 versions of three site documents were reviewed.
 - Implementation Plan
 - Strategic Plan
 - Progress Report

Extraction of Information:

- For each promising practice identified in these documents, the following data elements were extracted:
 - Intended Population of Practice
 - Reason Practice is Promising
 - Evidence of Success

Confirmation of Information:

- Preliminary Promising Practices Data Matrix sent to each site's Project Director for review and clarification
- Information was confirmed and completed via a telephone interview with the Project Director (or staff in some cases)

Entry of Information into the Data Matrix:

- Matrices were modified based on staff feedback and returned to the sites for final review
- Additional changes or comments were incorporated

Selection of Promising Practices:

- Practices that met the established criteria for promising were included in the special report

Examples of Service Integration:

- Case sharing and management
 - Joint home visits
 - Use of technology to enable information sharing

Examples of New, Enhanced, and Expanded Programming :

- Expansion of identification and referral pathway
 - Expanding services to new geographic areas
 - Training new volunteers to identify and refer children exposed to violence
 - Engaging first responders such as emergency medical services and 911 command center
 - Examining previous and existing caseloads

Examples Development of Policies, Procedures and Protocols:

- Changes in policies for identifying children exposed to violence
 - Adding at least one question to existing intake protocols to identify children exposed to violence
 - Making identification of children exposed to violence an official part of a person's job description

Examples of Community Action and Awareness:

- Development and distribution of public education materials
 - Fact sheets
 - Brochures
 - Flyers
 - Posters
 - Animated video and coloring book

Examples of Development, Identification, and Reallocation of Resources

- Reallocation of funds to support Safe Start goals or related activities
- Development of new funds to support cross-sector collaboration
 - To Encourage Arrest (DOJ grant)
 - Family Justice Center
 - Safe and Bright Futures (OJJDP grant)
 - City and County annual commitment to Safe Start

Building Capacity:

- Evaluation as a tool to build capacity
- Building evaluation capacity to increase overall organizational capacity

Contact Information:

- For a copy of the power point presentation contact Mary Hyde
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Obtaining the Report:

- For a copy of the special report go to www.capacitybuilding.net
 - Click on Safe Start
 - Click on Promising Practices Link
 - Download “Promising Practices of Demonstration Sites”

See also:

- Click on Process Evaluation Link
- Click on “Volume I” Link
- Automatically Downloads “Volume I: Cross-Site Process Evaluation”