

Cross System Collaboration to Identify Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities

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Smart Start Conference
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Agenda

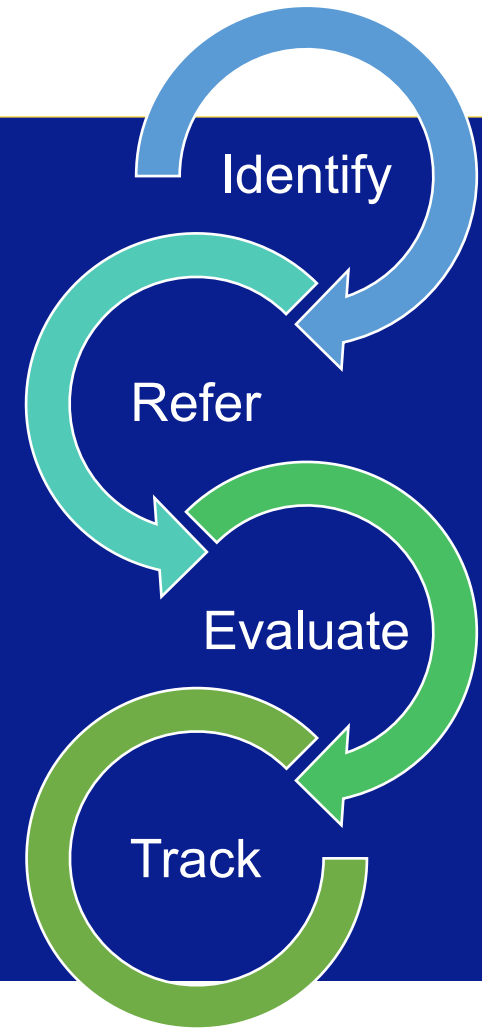
- Brief review: what is child find?
- High level overview of child find model demonstration project
- Comments from community team members:
 - What barriers have they identified?
 - What root causes are keeping those barriers in place?
 - What solutions are they considering?
- Group discussion/ brainstorming
 - How does this resonate with you?
 - How might you support child find practices in your community?

Who is in the Room?

- Work directly with children and families
- Work directly with ECE programs/
classrooms/ providers
- Work at a program or systems level (local,
regional, state)

Child Find System

- Coordination with referral sources
- High quality data systems
- Clear definition of eligibility
- Evaluation and appropriate identification



Child Find ACCESS: National Model Demonstration Project

- Funded by the Office of Special Education Programs
- Focused on implementation, refinement of a model to improve access to Part C early intervention
- Led by SRI International in partnership with FPG
- October 2021--September 2025 (4 years implementation + 5th year for dissemination)
- Three sites: Iredell, Cumberland, and Hoke counties

Goals of Child Find ACCESS

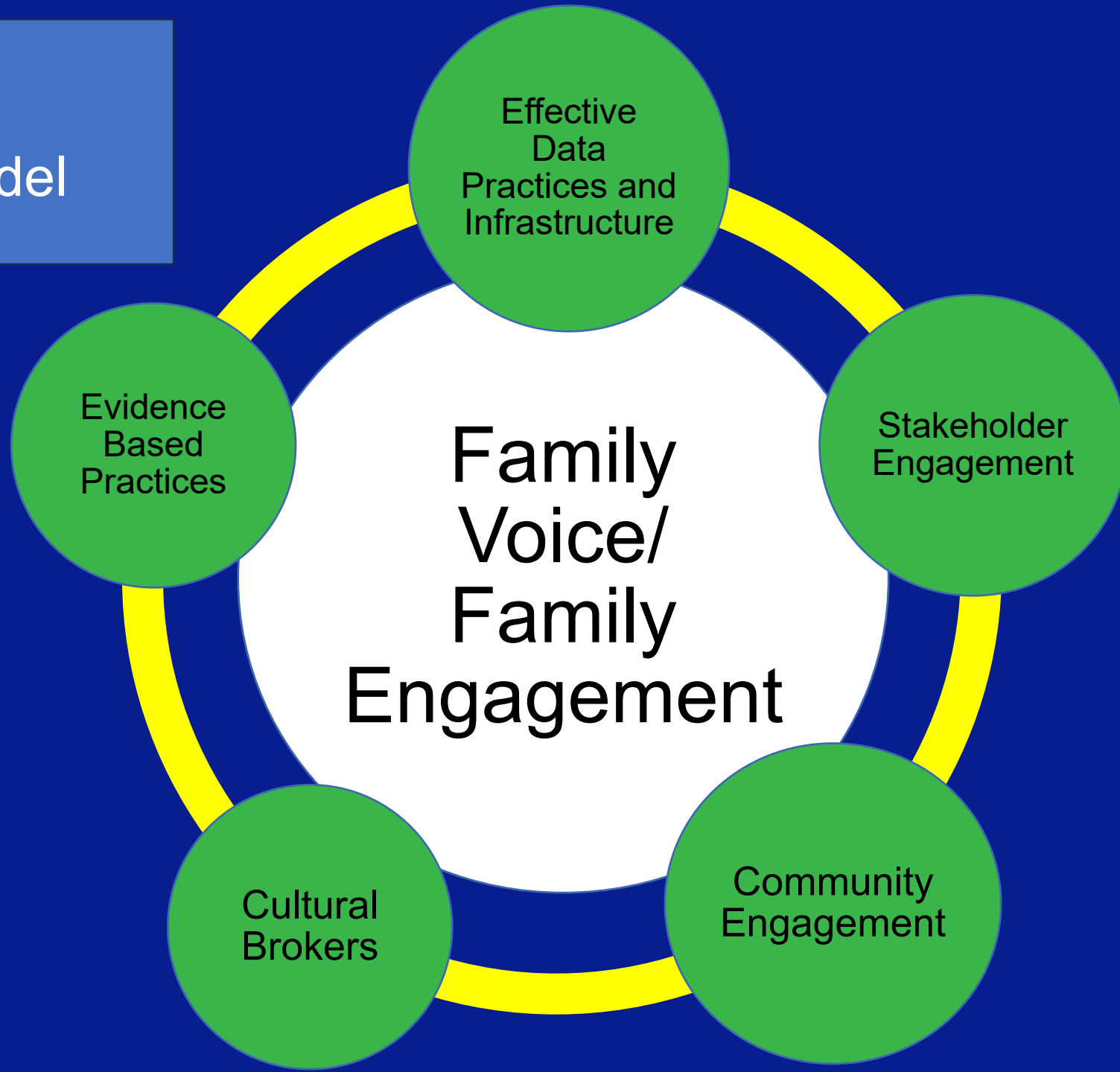
- **Increase appropriate referrals** to Part C, especially for infants under one year of age
- **Increase coordination** of screening, tracking, and referrals, reducing duplication of effort and streamlining processes
- **Promote access** to Part C Early Intervention services



Key Structures (to meet goals)

- **Community Leadership Teams (incl. family members)**
 - Examine local Child Find data and family interview data to identify challenges, plan improvements
- **State Leadership Team (incl. family members)**
 - Addresses state- or system-level barriers and opportunities
- **Cultural Brokers**
 - Support families to navigate system
 - Support system partners to understand/respond to family needs

Child Find
ACCESS Model



Parent-Reported Barriers to Services

- Hispanic and unhoused populations are underserved
- Parents are overwhelmed by a diagnosis or differing advice about how to move forward
- Parents with children who have health challenges and special needs often live in survival mode

Parent-Reported Barriers, continued...

- Money – cost of therapies and time away from work
- Mental toll to hear frequently what their children cannot do
- Conflict between strategies that work for family and strategies advocated by therapists

Barriers

Families do not know about EI program or that they can self-refer

Physicians take wait and see approach

Few referrals are coming from ECE programs

Barriers

Root Causes

Families do not know about EI program or that they can self-refer

Physicians take wait and see approach

Few referrals are coming from ECE programs

Lack of knowledge about EI/referral process; mindsets re: disabilities; lack of time; etc.

Barriers

Root Causes

Solutions

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Physicians take wait and see approach

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Materials about CDSA/EI program and referrals in Dr. offices; lunch and learns with docs; CDSA and CDC posters in dr offices; info about CDSA on social media (TBD); info about CDSA and developmental monitoring and screening to ECE programs; community-wide screening events; **what else??**



What Say You?

- How does your work intersect with child find?
- What ideas do you have for addressing the barriers?
- How can you improve child find practices in your community?

Questions,
comments?



Thank you!

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