



# DEFENDING CHILDHOOD

## PROTECT HEALTH THRIVE

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE INITIATIVE**

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Jakolya Gordon, Program Officer

Cuyahoga County Children Who Witness Violence

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Attorney General Eric Holder's initiative
- Cuyahoga County selected as 1 of 8 sites
- Goals of initiative are to:
  - Reduce childhood exposure to violence
  - Increase knowledge & awareness by advancing scientific inquiry
  - Reduce the negative impact of childhood exposure to violence



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- 75-member Governing Board, Chairman Steve Dettelbach, USAO Northern District Ohio with 6 executive level Vice Chairpersons
- 101 members on 6 Subcommittees-  
Community Engagement & Awareness,  
Innovation Lab, Training, Services, Data &  
Evaluation, Funding & Sustainability

# DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN

- 152 participants representing all stakeholders including youth, schools, faith & community based, government, treatment, law enforcement, advocates, etc.
- 22 meetings over 5 months
- 2 all day meetings – consensus reached on plan based on Subcommittee recommendations

# TIMING

- Cuyahoga County awarded planning grant October 2010
- Strategic plan submitted May 2, 2011
- DOJ decision - Cuyahoga County awarded \$2 million
- Implementation of three-year initiative begins October 1, 2011
- Community awareness campaign & services begin June 2012

# VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Cleveland: rated 7<sup>th</sup> in violent crime
- 2 of 25 most dangerous neighborhoods in U.S.
- Children present in 28.3% of DV and 20% of homicides in Cleveland
- Homicide leading cause of death for 1-9 year olds
- 38% of middle school & 18.6% of high school students in a physical fight at school in last year
- 16% of high school students carried a weapon in last 30 days

# RATIONALE FOR APPROACH

- Magnitude of childhood exposure to violence requires a community & system-wide response
- Violence will decrease with an understanding of the consequences of CEV & alternative responses
- Identification of CEV and provision of evidence-based practices will ameliorate the negative consequences of exposure
- Data will further inform and offer insights
- Given limited resources, must leverage existing resources

# VISION

Cuyahoga County's children are protected and healed from exposure to violence, allowing them to thrive and become healthy and compassionate adults in a supportive and safe community.

## REQUIRES:

- Transformation of community at large & of child-serving systems
- Innovative Approach



# MISSION

To empower the general public & child-serving agencies to prevent violence & to identify & intervene when children are exposed to violence in their homes, schools, & communities to relieve the child's trauma & end the cycle of violence.

## REQUIRES:

- Addressing pre-natal through 17 years & parents/caregivers
- All forms of violence & gratuitous depiction of violence

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Child & parent/caregiver involvement
- Evidence-based, culturally sensitive, & accessible services
- Participatory, transparent, & collaborative community process
- Integration into existing systems using available human & fiscal resources
- On-going improvements using results oriented reporting

# STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS

- Community Engagement & Awareness
- System Change
  - Policies & Procedures
  - Services
  - Training
- Data & Evaluation
- Resources & Sustainability

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

- **“I Have the Power to Stop Violence!”** contest
- Biennial conferences starting Sept. 2011
- Community awareness campaign
- Neighborhood “Stop the Violence” projects in high violent crime areas

# LENS OF VIOLENCE SYSTEM CHANGE

- Trauma-informed organizations - MOU & Checklist
- Innovation Lab created policies & procedures – consistent, efficient, & effective
- Training Institute trained staff – core knowledge & fidelity to service models
- Prevention programming
- Child Trauma Services Network -evidence-based services – Central Intake & Assessment, Intervention, & Treatment

# TRAINING INSTITUTE

- 4000 trained in core curriculum
  - Signs, symptoms, impact
  - “Problem” behaviors may be coping skills
  - Re-traumatization, trigger responses
  - New service system
- Evidence-based practice trainings/supervision
- New staff training & orientation

# DATA & EVALUATION

- Universal data collection protocol addressing baseline & longitudinal
- Local evaluation – process, outcome, impact
- Disseminate findings – reports, articles, report cards
- National evaluation by the Center for Court Innovation

# RESOURCES & SUSTAINABILITY

- Integrate into current service system & initiatives
- Capitalize on existing resources, sustainability
- \$8 million 3-year budget
  - \$2 million locally raised
  - \$4 million existing funding including Medicaid
  - \$2 million DOJ funding
- Cuyahoga County to oversee with Justice & Human Services collaborative structure
- On-going Community Collaborative



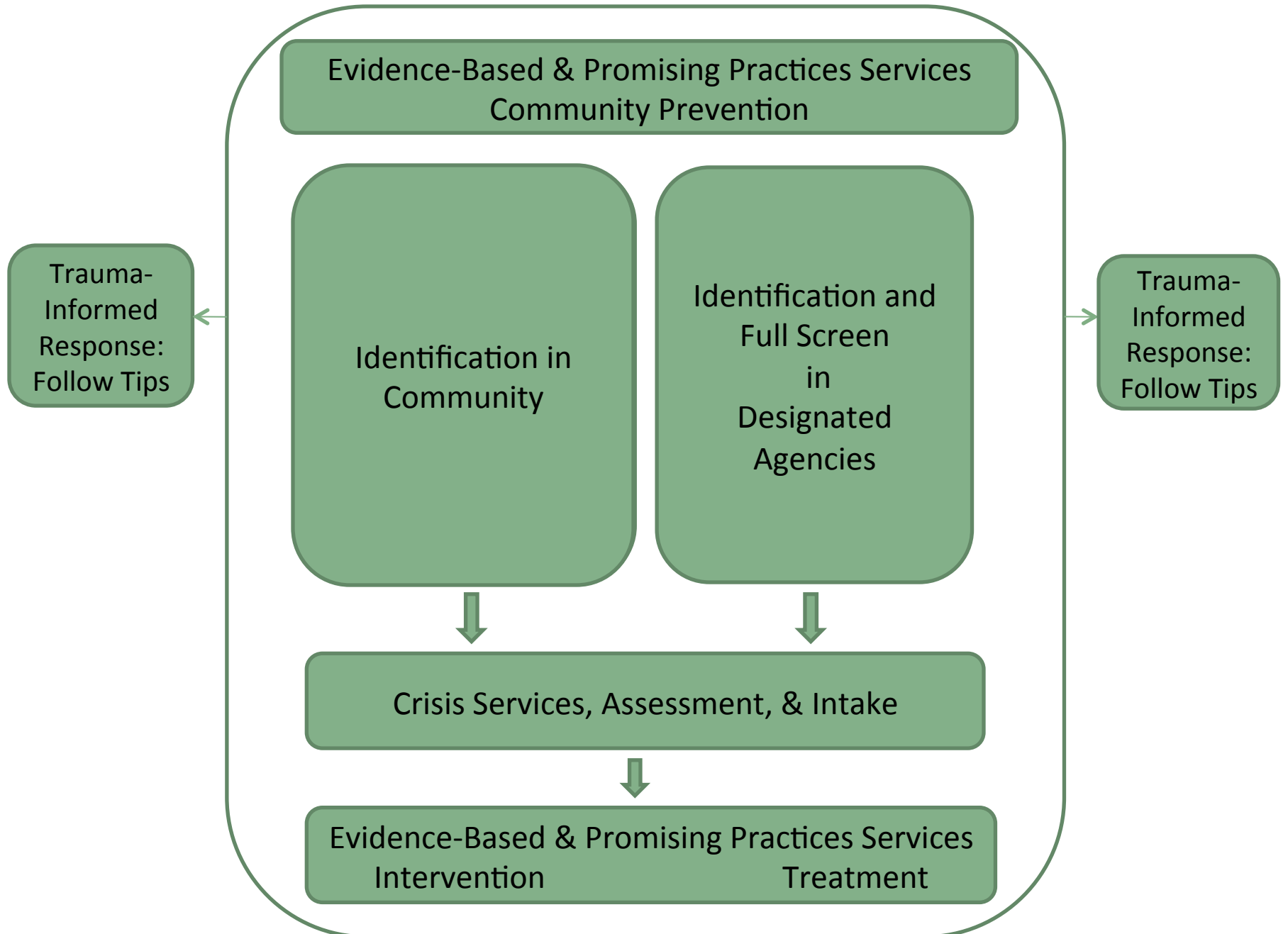
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# SERVICE SYSTEM

- Evidence-based & promising practices
  - Full developmental age range
  - Parents
  - Home, school, community
- Existing & new
- Cuyahoga County Child Trauma Services Network
- Compassion Fatigue

# SERVICE SYSTEM



# EXISTING SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Families & Schools Together (FAST)
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Adults & Children Together (ACT)

# NEW SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Psychological First Aid (PFA)
- Olweus Bullying Prevention
- Trauma Adapted Family Cognitive Therapy (TA-FCT)
- Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS)

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Join a subcommittee and help to further develop **DEFENDING CHILDHOOD**
- Commit to being a trauma-informed organization
- Contribute resources
- Participate in training
- Offer selected evidence-based services
- Join the Cuyahoga County Child Trauma Services Network

