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**PROJECT
LAUNCH**

Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

**An overview of Delaware Project LAUNCH
Goals, Strategies and Objectives**



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Framing the Issue

- CHILDREN NEED:
 - Safe, supportive environments to grow and enter school ready to learn;
 - Access to services that foster healthy development;
 - Wellness addressed across all developmental domains; and
 - A shared vision across child serving settings and systems.



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Delaware's Priorities

What Delaware will do?

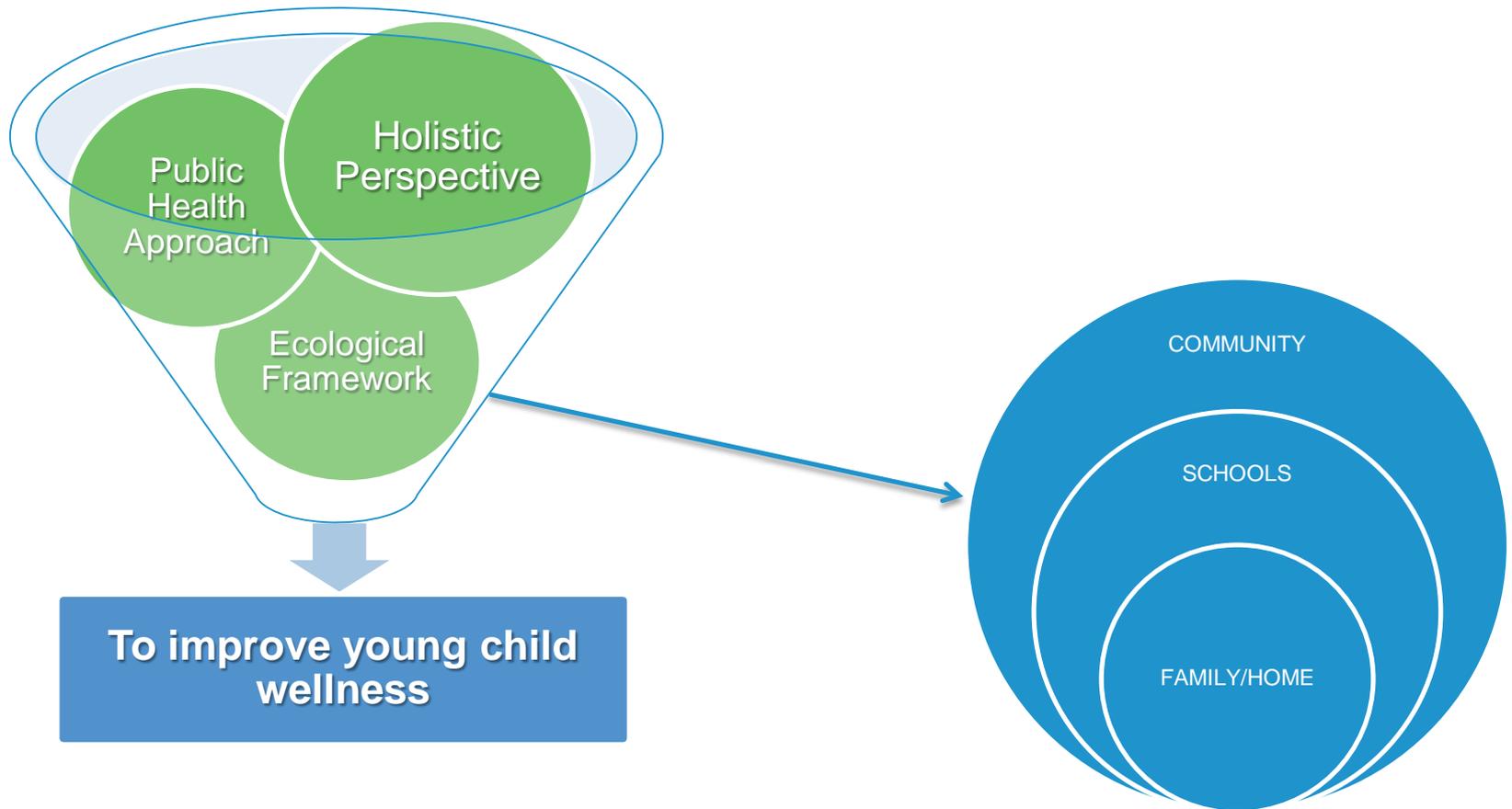
Promote Delaware's' Shared Vision For Young Children – Sustaining Early Success...

- The mission set by the Delaware Early Childhood Council is to promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families.

Ready Children = Ready Families = Ready Communities = Ready Schools

These statewide efforts match the goals, strategies and objections set by Delaware Project LAUNCH

Reaching Our Goal...



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Long-term goal: For all children to reach social, emotional, behavioral, physical, and cognitive milestones – enter school ready to learn and are able to thrive in school and beyond

Population of focus: Children from birth to 8 years

- Five-year \$4 M federal initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to:
 - Promote positive physical, social, emotional, cognitive and behavioral development and wellness of young children
 - Coordinate across child-serving systems and integrate behavioral and physical health services



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Population of Focus

- City of Wilmington, Feeder Zip Codes into Warner Elementary and Evan G. Shortlidge Academy
 - 10,086 children birth to 8 years (46% Female & 54% Male)
 - 40% White 42% African American 17% Hispanic
- Demographics by Zip Code
 - 19802 (18% White; **75% African American**; 4% Hispanic)
 - 19805 (47% White; 28% African American; **24% Hispanic**)
 - 19806 (84% White; 11% African American; 2% Hispanic)
- Demographics of Schools
 - Warner (4% White; **74% African American**; **18% Hispanic**)
 - Shortlidge (1% White; **93% African American**; 5% Hispanic)

Population of Focus (cont.)

- Children enrolled in local elementary schools birth to age 8
 - 166 children in Pre K, K, 1 & 2 at Shortlidge
 - 310 children in Pre K, K, 1 & 2 at Warner
 - **These demographics will change with the Priority School redesign to Shortlidge Warner Community Campus**
 - Shortlidge will be K – Grade 2
 - Warner will be Pre-K, Grade 3 - 5
- Early Care and Education Programs
 - ~151 Programs in Zip Codes (61 Center & 90 Family)
 - ~28 Programs in Feeder Pattern (Capacity of 274 children)
 - 32% of programs participate in Delaware Stars (Quality Rating and Improvement System)

Prevention and Promotion Strategies

The implementation and expansion of evidence-based programs and practices will occur in five key areas:

Screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings

Integration of behavioral health into primary care

Mental health consultation in early care and education

Enhanced home visiting through focus on social and emotional well-being

Family strengthening and parent skills training

Prevention and Promotion Objective

Delaware will address the Project LAUNCH strategies by focusing on five key objectives.

OBJECTIVE ONE: Increase access to screening, assessment, and referral to appropriate services for young children and families

OBJECTIVE TWO: Expand use of culturally relevant, evidence-based prevention and wellness promotion practices in a range of child-serving settings

OBJECTIVE THREE: Increase integration of behavioral health into primary care settings

OBJECTIVE FOUR: Improve coordination and collaboration across disciplines at the local, state and federal levels

OBJECTIVE FIVE: Increase workforce knowledge of children's social and emotional development and skills to respond to behavioral health challenges of young children and families

Project Activities for Community Enhancements

❖ Division of Public Health

- 2-1-1/Help Me Grow,, Social Marketing to raise awareness
- Maternal Depression Screenings, Healthy Women/Healthy Babies
- Enhancements for home-visiting with professional development

❖ Nemours Clinics

- St. Francis and Jessup Street Clinics
- Partnership focusing on developmental screening that is trauma-informed with parent education/strengthening opportunities

❖ Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

- Dedicated Delaware Stars TA to increase quality early learning

❖ Support to ECE programs to promote social and emotional wellness

- Dedicated Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant - bilingual

Project Activities for Community Enhancements (cont.)

❖ Strengthening Families

- Dedicated Intensive Family Coordinator

❖ Transition Coordinator

- Support to ECE programs and elementary schools regarding transition to kindergarten

❖ Implementation of an evidence-based social and emotional curricula for both ECE programs and elementary schools

- PATHS Curriculum Proposes

❖ Parent Enhancement Opportunities

- Parent Cafés
- Parenting Skill Building Trainings

➤ Improved Coordination and Collaboration

- Partnerships with DECC and WECEC

Delaware Project LAUNCH Partnerships

- Children and Their Families
- DSCYF, DHSS, DOE, UD (Delaware Stars and DIEEC)
- Early Learning Programs/ECE Professionals
- Warner Elementary and Shortlidge Academy
- Nemours Health Clinics
- Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC) — serving as the State Council on Young Child Wellness
- Wilmington Early Care and Education Council (WECEC) — serving as the Local Council on Young Child Wellness
- Community Leaders and Community Organizations

Councils on Young Child Wellness

Local and State Level Councils Required

DECC and WECEC have agreed to serve as the councils ~ Linking to existing leadership structures

Councils will serve in an advisory capacity

- A cornerstone of the Project LAUNCH model is the forging of partnerships across disciplines and agencies that serve young children and their families. These partnerships are key mechanisms for creating more coordinated service delivery systems. A critical mechanism for developing and sustaining partnerships is the formation of **Councils on Young Child Wellness** to bring together a range of stakeholders and community leaders who are invested in improving outcomes for young children.
- In supporting a shared vision for young child wellness, the Councils can help different organizations understand how their agendas overlap or diverge so they can together develop effective, integrated methods for achieving shared goals.

Purpose and Importance of the Councils on Young Child Wellness

1. Unite stakeholders at state and local levels, across the child-serving systems to create a shared vision of young child wellness
2. Bring together providers, parents, and other stakeholders to plan and oversee local implementation and that parents are well supported
 - Help assure that the right people are at the table, with content knowledge, and understanding of systems, passion and commitment and ensure that membership is diverse in terms of geography, ethnicity, age, and disciplines (10% parent/caregiver representation needed)
3. Help conduct an environmental scan to map existing resources, unmet needs, and areas for collaboration
4. Help develop a strategic plan to prioritize goals and objectives, timelines, and benchmarks for success
5. Provide support to help ensure that programs address behavioral health disparities through strategic planning and implementation



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Making a Difference to Help Delaware's Children Thrive!





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Questions ?



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