

leading with
evidence

APRIL 25, 2019

Promoting Equitable Outcomes With the Family First Prevention Services Act

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION





**Suzanne Barnard,
The Annie E. Casey Foundation**

Welcome and Overview

The Leading With Evidence Webinar Series



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION



William T. Grant
FOUNDATION

Today's Presenters



Alexandra Citrin
Center for the Study of
Social Policy

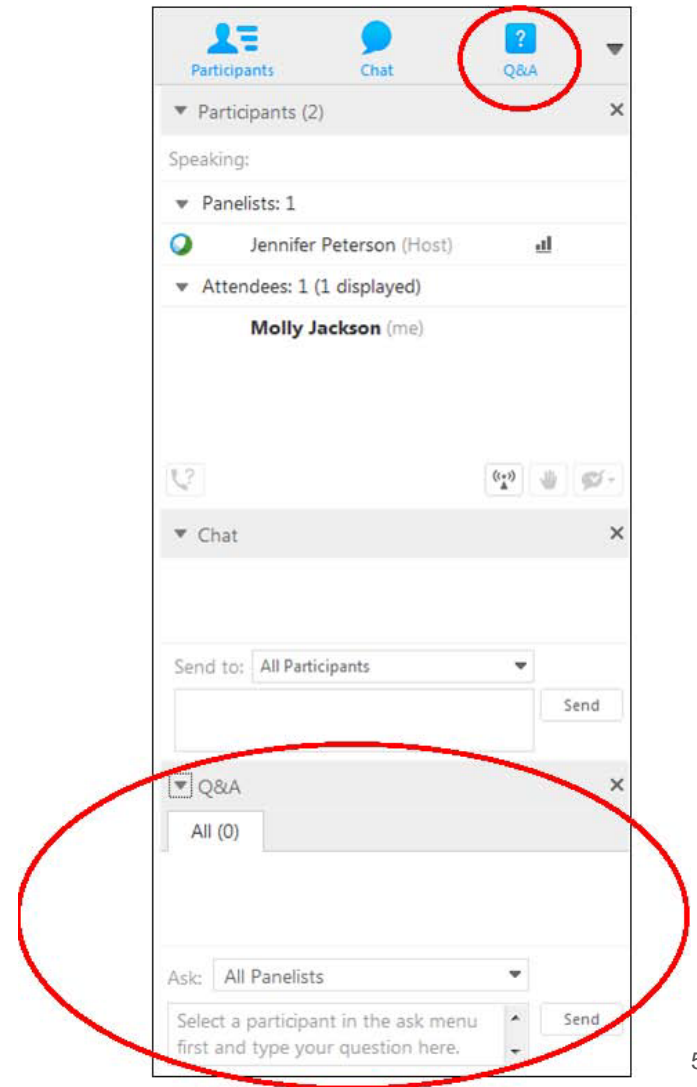


Megan Martin
Center for the Study of
Social Policy

Communicating During the Webinar

Communicate with us using the Q&A window at the right of the presentation window.

- Type questions for the panel at any time during the webinar.
- Use the box to let us know if you are having technical difficulties.



The Family First Act: A Tool for Advancing Equity

The Family First Prevention Services Act

- Supports keeping children at home with their families when safe
- Promotes appropriate placements for youth who must enter foster care
- Prioritizes family-based placements
- Creates safeguards against placing children unnecessarily in congregate care
- Provides new model foster home licensing standards
- Extends Chafee services for youth in care



Prevention Services



- **Eligibility:**

- Children who are candidates for foster care
- Parents and caregivers of children who are candidates
- Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care

- **Services:**

- Mental health, substance abuse, in-home parent skill-based programs

- **Evidence Criteria:**

- Well-supported, supported, promising
- Clearinghouse forthcoming
- Guidance for tribes operating IV-E systems



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Ideas into Action

Ensuring Appropriate Placements

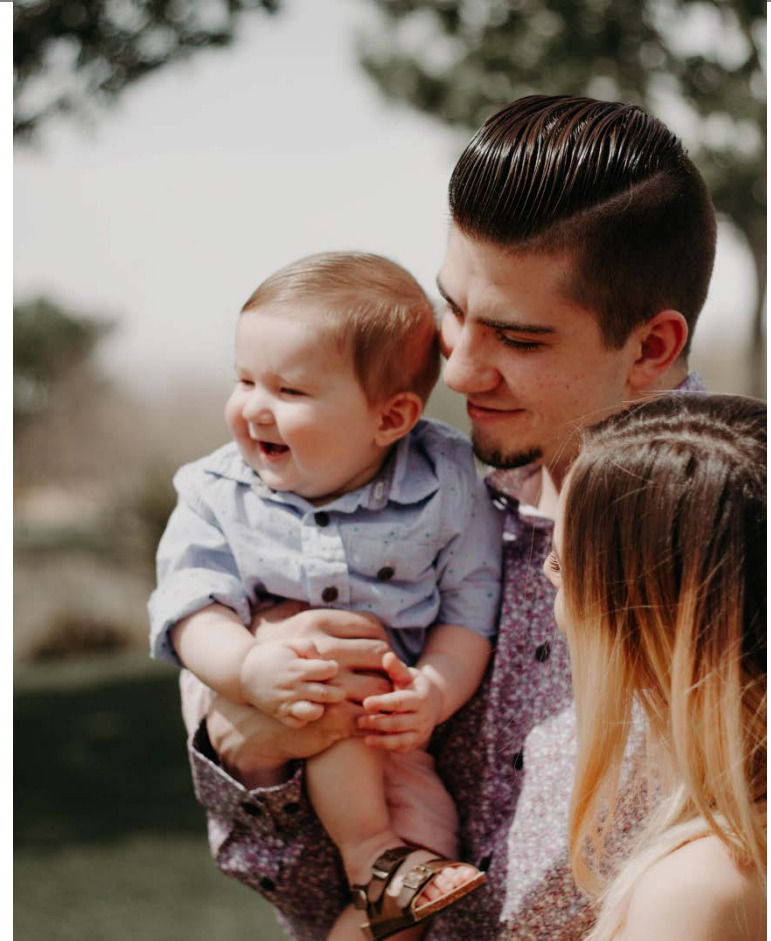


- **Promoting appropriate placements:**
 - Array of placements
 - Recruitment and retention of foster parents
 - Support for kin
 - Assessments of need
 - Judicial oversight
- **Qualified Residential Treatment Program requirements:**
 - Case planning, family engagement, accreditation, needs-based
- **Exclusions:**
 - Pregnant and parenting youth, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and independent living programs



The Family First Prevention Services Act

- Family First does not advance equity on its own
- States must be intentional about reducing existing disproportionalities and disparities
- States can prevent the hardwiring of new policy and processes that reinforce existing inequities
- Creates an opportunity to undo existing systemic and institutional racism



How Family First Advances Equity



Engage the broader **community**



Develop an **array** of prevention services



Invest in growing the **evidence**



Reduce **disparities** in congregate care



Engaging the Broader Community

Engage the Broader Community

- Include **partner agencies** and **community stakeholders** to gain multiple perspectives about the needs of children and families
- Go beyond the usual suspects – engage child welfare staff at the **county and local level**



Engage the Broader Community

- **Engage families**
– those who have and have not participated in prevention services
- Meaningfully include **youth voice**



Engage the Broader Community

- **Promote a shared investment** in developing the plan will also lead to shared accountability — ensuring that quality services are effectively implemented
- Find **mechanisms for transparency**



Engaging Community: Colorado and Ohio



COLORADO



OHIO

- Created public-facing websites for transparency
- Created workgroups (and subcommittees) to engage non-child welfare employees



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Ideas into Action

Engaging Community: Washington, D.C.



- Conducted focus groups of parents who have received or are receiving prevention services
- Conducted focus groups of direct service providers



Developing an Array of Prevention Services

Developing an Array of Prevention Services

Develop a broad range of prevention services that can meet the unique needs of families



Developing an Array: Examples



- **Washington, D.C.:**
 - Including prevention programs that meet needs of community in proposed Title IV-E prevention plan



Developing an Array: Examples



- **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania:**
 - Collects data on sexual orientation and gender identity
 - Regularly disaggregates data by race, sexual orientation and gender identity



Investing in Growing the Evidence

Invest in Growing the Evidence

Only a small number of evidence-based programs have been normed on children and families disproportionately involved with child welfare – and for whom the greatest disparities exist

- Identify local interventions that work to achieve positive outcomes for children and families
- Utilize maintenance of effort dollars (MOE) to support innovation
- Invest in communities of color implementing promising and effective approaches
- Look to tribes operating Title IV-E systems
- Look to National Quality Improvement Centers



Invest in Growing the Evidence



- Maintenance of effort dollars (MOE):
 - New Title IV-E funding must *support and not supplant* existing investments in prevention.
 - Formula for each state
 - Unique opportunity for states to invest in innovation because there are no eligibility or evidence requirements for these dollars



Reducing Disparities in Congregate Care

Reduce Disparities in Congregate Care

- Implement foster parent **recruitment and retention strategies** for youth who are over-represented in congregate care, including LGBTQ youth, teenagers, youth with behavioral health needs and those who are expectant or parenting.
- Review your current foster family **licensing standards** and compare to the national standards.
- Invest in **targeted training** for foster parents.
- Provide **in-home support** for foster parents.



Reduce Disparities in Congregate Care



- Develop guidance to reduce unintended consequences of placement of youth in more restrictive settings
- Ensure appropriate assessments of all youth in care to ensure safety while preventing bias from influencing placement decisions



Reduce Disparities in Congregate Care: Example



- **Prince George's County, Maryland**
 - Working to design and implement training
 - All foster parents are required to take module



Key Takeaways and Resources

Key Takeaways

- 1. Implementation is key** to actively ensuring equity and preventing unintended consequences.
- 2. Equity isn't just an “add on.”** It must be core to implementation.
- 3. Intentionally focusing on equity** should help states better meet the mandates of Family First.



Resources from CSSP

- *10 Ways to Advance Equity and Well-Being through FFPSA:* <https://cssp.org/resource/seizing-the-opportunity/>
- *Responsibly Defining Candidacy within the Context of FFPSA: Five Principles to Consider:* <https://cssp.org/resource/responsibly-defining-candidacy/>
- *FFPSA: Pregnant and Parenting Youth FAQs:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Family-First-FAQs.pdf>
- *Opportunities for Progress: Better Serving Families with Domestic Violence through FFPSA:* <https://cssp.org/resource/opportunities-for-progress-domestic-violence-ffpsa/>

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Resources from CSSP

- *Out of the Shadows: Supporting LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare through Cross-System Collaborations:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Out-of-the-Shadows-Supporting-LGBTQ-youth-in-child-welfare-through-cross-system-collaboration-web.pdf>
- *Achieving Racial Equity: Child Welfare Policy Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children of Color:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/achieving-racial-equity-child-welfare-policy-strategies-improve-outcomes-children-color.pdf>
- *Expanding the Evidence Universe: Doing Better by Knowing More:* <https://cssp.org/resource/expanding-the-evidence-universe/>

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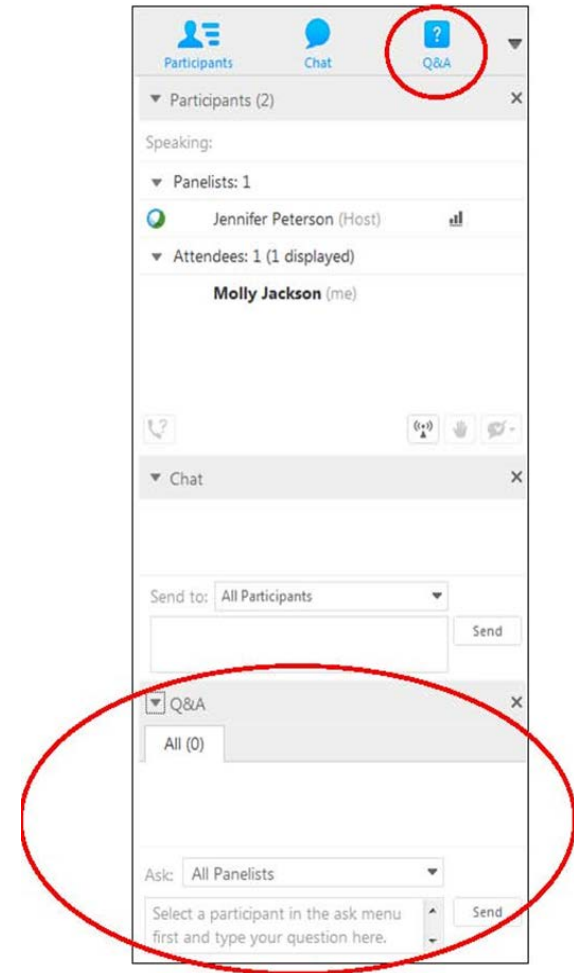
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Questions?

Please use the Q&A function on your screen to submit questions.

A recording of this webinar will be sent to those who registered and posted at www.aecf.org/webinar.



The Leading With Evidence Webinar Series

2018 WEBINAR RECORDINGS

- *Bringing Evidence-Based Program Adaptations Into Child Welfare Systems*
 - <https://www.aecf.org/blog/watch-our-webinar-adapting-evidence-based-programs-in-child-welfare/>
- *Funding Evidence-Based Programs in Child Welfare: Implications of the Family First Act*
 - <https://www.aecf.org/blog/funding-evidence-based-programs-in-child-welfare-with-the-family-first/>
- *Assessing Readiness for Implementation: Using the Hexagon Tool*
 - <https://www.aecf.org/blog/webinar-assessing-readiness-for-implementation-with-the-hexagon-tool/>
- *Tools and Resources for Research-Practice Partnerships*
 - <https://www.aecf.org/blog/leveraging-research-practice-partnerships-to-support-the-work-of-child-welf/>

COMING SOON

- Join us in July for *Six Fiscal Analysis Steps for Family First*. (Watch aecf.org for date and registration information.)

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Developing solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities

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