

Community System to Achieve Child Well Being

Community Response:

Community Response is a system of supports and services for children and families to strengthen families and build protective factors. It is a system that can prevent families from unnecessary entry into higher-end systems of care (juvenile justice, child welfare system, etc.) It is focused on primary, secondary and tertiary levels of prevention and requires a broad-based collaboration committed to working together to align and access all available resources and to address gaps in order to build a robust prevention system.

Alternative Response:

Alternative Response is a new approach to help families with less severe reports of child abuse and/or neglect, connect with the supports and services they need in order to enhance the parent's ability to keep their children safe and healthy. The Child Protective Services Hotline receives a report of child abuse and neglect. This report is accepted or not accepted based on application of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) screening Criteria. If the report is accepted it is screened applying the 21 AR Exclusionary Criteria and the 6 review, evaluate and decided team criteria to determine eligibility for AR. If case is not AR eligible the family is assigned to the Traditional Response pathway (assessment/ investigation) for a response. If AR eligible, 50% are assigned to the AR pathway and 50% are assigned to the TR pathway.

Core Components:

Communities utilize the collective impact model for Child Wellbeing Communities for Community Response/Alternative Response and enhance the following conditions:

- i. Central Navigation – a Community collaboration is supported through a backbone organization which leads the service providers and community partners in supporting families through a streamlined access to services, shared measurement and data collection.
- ii. Coordinated Service Delivery – Financial support available to expand or initiate evidence based practices within the communities aimed at improving parental protective factors and increasing child and family wellbeing.
- iii. Flexible Funds – Flexible monies to meet the identified diminished parental protective factors after exhausting all other community services.
- iv. Enhance Parental Protective Factors
- v. Prevent further involvement of Child Protective Services
- vi. Collective Impact Approach includes a broad based of community partners, a community backbone, and a system that organizes, aligns and fills gaps in a community to achieve wellbeing
- vii. Flexible funds and effective utilization of existing community resources

Outcomes

- 1) Increasing parental protective factors to strengthen parent and child resiliency, increase self-sufficiency, and realize positive life outcomes over time.
- 2) Reducing entry into the child welfare system
- 3) Increasing informal and community supports for families (ensuring family needs are met).