

Promoting Resiliency and Positive Outcomes for Young Children: What's the Role of the Homelessness System

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Administration for Children and Families, DHHS**

**2016 National Conference on Ending Homelessness
July 26, 2016**



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

My Role

- Early Childhood Homelessness at federal level to improve coordination
- Upcoming opportunities for homeless service providers to know about and leverage
- Overview of some of the resources available from HHS
- Next steps



Children Experiencing Homelessness

- More than half of all children in shelter programs are age five or under.
- Homeless children have lower birth weights and experience higher levels of childhood illness.
- Mental health problems among children are also prevalent.
- Mothers experiencing homelessness have a higher rate of depression, severe traumatized history and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- These issues can make bonding with and caring for children more challenging for parents experiencing homelessness.



Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care & Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

- Support the well-being of young children and their families to meet families' immediate needs and improve the long-term educational outcomes of the children
- Develop partnerships, coordination and collaboration with other community organizations to help end incidences of family homelessness



Information Shared with Home Visiting Grantees

- November 2015 – MIECHV Grantees
- November 2015 – Healthy Start Grantees
- January 2016 – Tribal MIECHV Grantees



- Provide Quality Home Visiting Services for Homeless Families
- Have Policies in Place for Families who are Temporarily Homeless after a disaster
- Offer Flexibility to Homeless Families
- Coordinate with CoC and Local Liaisons
- Work with Homeless Coalitions



Key Features of CCDBG Reauthorization

- 12-month Eligibility Policies
- Payment Rates & Provider Payment Practices
- Consumer Education & Family Engagement
- Health & Safety Minimums in Licensing/Training
- Criminal Background Checks
- Monitoring
- Training & Professional Development
- Increased Quality Spending
- Infant & Toddler Set-aside
- Supply-building for Underserved Populations
- Tribal Provisions



CCDF NPRM for Public Comment

The NPRM included provisions that would:

- Define homeless to be consistent with the definition in section 725 of Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act (i.e. definition used by Head Start and Dept. of Education) (45 CFR 98.2)
- Require Lead Agencies to coordinate with other relevant agencies to help families receiving services during a grace period comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. (45 CFR 98.41(a)(1)(i)(C)(3))
- Clarifies that children experiencing homelessness shall be given priority for services. (45 CFR 98.46(a)(3))



Head Start & Early Head Start Eligibility

By Income	Family size living below 100% poverty
Categorically Eligible	1. Children in foster care
	2. Children who are homeless
	3. Children in families receiving public assistance (TANF or SSI) are categorically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services regardless of income.
	<i>Once determined eligible an EHS child remains eligible until they transition into their next placement at age three (or 4 if in family child care).</i>



Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007

Category	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Cumulative Enrollment	1,061,343	1,047,184	1,104,191	1,125,209	1,130,211	1,129,754	1,076,109	1,099,901
Total # of Families	977,680	967,764	1,024,962	1,041,132	1,044,962	1,033,698	988,903	1,007,434
# of Families Facing Homelessness	22,700	26,000	39,000	44,200	49,063	46,800	45,175	46,535
#of Children Facing Homelessness	26,200	29,600	43,000	49,100	54,355	50,992	48,849	50,219
#of Families that Found Housing	12,900	12,400	14,800	16,400	17,731	15,696	14,730	15,243



Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)



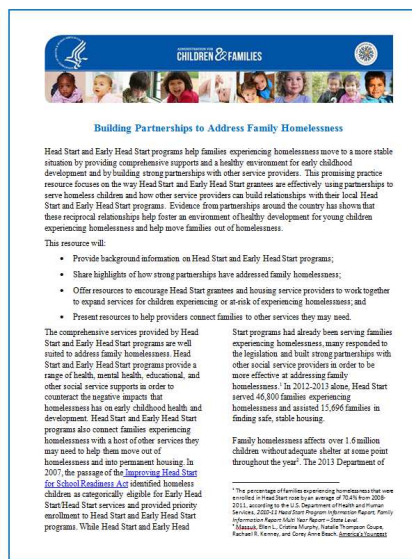
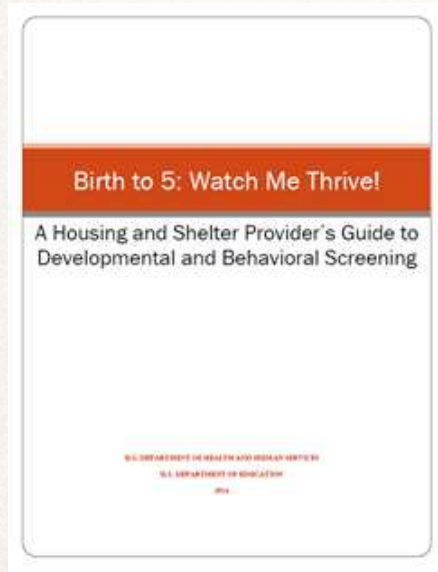
- Goal is to expand the number and quality of early learning opportunities for infants and toddlers.
- 275 EHS-CCP grantees are partnering with center-based and family child care providers who agree to meet Early Head Start Program Performance Standards
- 71.7% of Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership applications proposed serving homeless children.



ACF Resources

Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!

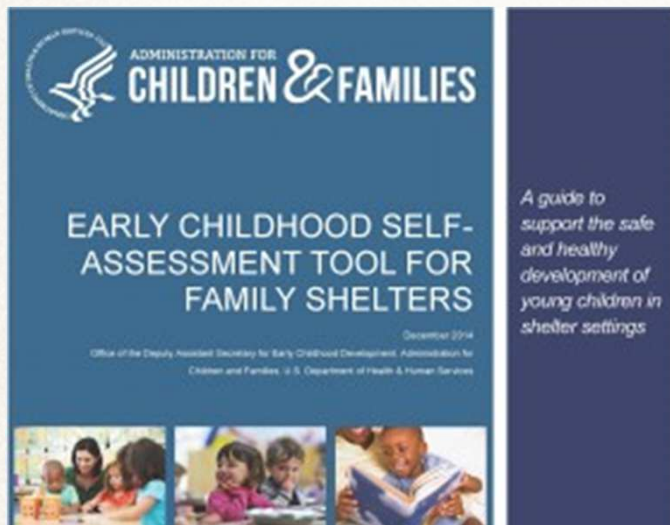
Building Partnerships to Address Family Homelessness



ACF Resources

Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters

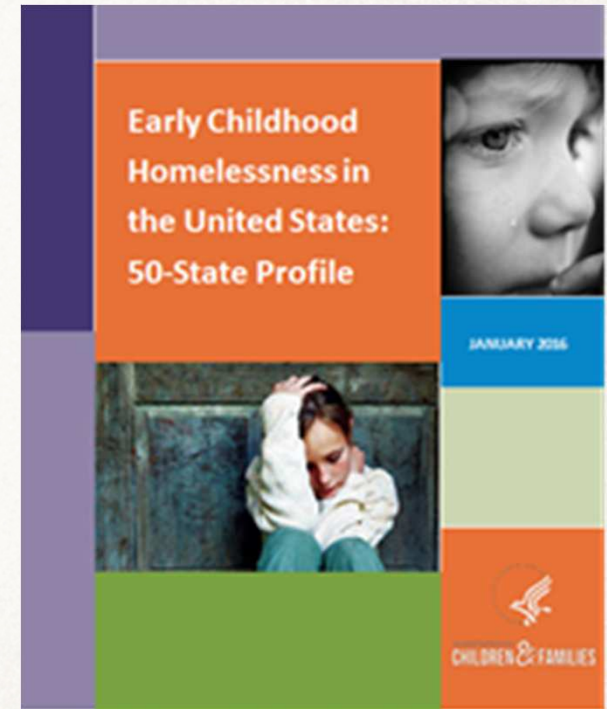
This tool is intended to help shelters and early learning programs work together to create the most appropriate and supportive environment possible for young children and strengthen collaboration efforts at the local level to best use community resources.



Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: The 50-State Profile

The 50-state profile provides a snapshot of early childhood data available for children who are experiencing homelessness in each state.

The Office of Early Childhood Development at ACF hopes these profiles will provide information for local, statewide and federal conversations and planning toward the goal of ending family homelessness by 2020.



Key National Findings

- 5,975,717 young children lived below FPL in 2013
 - More than 1 in 4 children (25.1 %)
- 102,973 children experiencing homelessness under the age of 6 were in emergency shelter and transitional housing in principal cities, and 14,448 children were in permanent housing in principal cities. Nearly 60,000 served in suburban and rural areas.
- 9,953 children experiencing homelessness received Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meals



New Early Childhood Training & Technical Assistance (T/TA) System

- Builds on the T/TA systems developed by the Offices of Child Care (OCC) and Head Start (OHS).
- National Centers develop high-quality, evidence-based resources and practices, and provide training and technical assistance.
- National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement (NCPFCE)
 - Strengthening Family Wellbeing - Homelessness



ACF National Research Conference on Early Childhood



The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) presents
The National Research Conference on Early Childhood*

Access to Quality in Early Care and Education: Building the Evidence Base for Policy and Practice

July 11–13, 2016 | Grand Hyatt | Washington, DC

*Formerly known as Head Start's National Research Conference on Early Childhood

- Just held July 11th through 13th in Washington D.C.
- Had more than 1200 early childhood researchers, practitioners and policymakers
- “Early Care and Education and Positive Parenting: Promoting Child and Family Resilience in the face of Homelessness” & 5 states presented on their early childhood projects for children experiencing homelessness.



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Thank you

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202-401-7241

Websites:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd>

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children>



ADMINISTRATION FOR
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The Critical Importance of the Early Years: Foundations of Social-Emotional Health



Jayne Singer, PhD

www.brazeltontouchpoints.org
2016



Emotional Development

- Basic Trust in emotions and social relationships
- Ability to self-regulate

Babies can

turn us into Care- givers



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© Wondertime

“As young children develop,
their early emotional
experiences literally become
embedded in the architecture
of their brains.”

J.P. Shonkoff, Chair
National Scientific Council on
the Developing Child; [www.
developingchild.harvard.edu](http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu)

- “The growth of self-regulation is a cornerstone of early childhood development that cuts across all domains of behavior...and relationships; and the effects of relationships upon relationships are the building blocks of health development.”

Schonkoff, J.P., & Phillips, D. (Eds.) (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, p. 3

“All of early development--
cognitive, motor, language and
communication, growth--
occurs within social and emotional
development, and within the
system of
caregiving relationships.” J. Singer

National Scientific Council on the Developing Child Working Paper # 1, 2004
(www.developingchild.harvard.edu)

The Neurobehavioral and Social-Emotional Development of Infants and Young Children
Dr. E. Tronick, 2007

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Coping in Young Children: Early Intervention Practices to Enhance Adaptive Behavior
and Resilience; Drs. S. Zeitlin and G. Williamson

What is Early Childhood Mental Health ?



“...the ability to develop physically, cognitively, and socially in a manner that allows the infant to master the primary emotional tasks of early childhood without serious disruption caused by harmful life events. Because infants grow in a context of nurturing environments, infant mental health involves the psychological balance of the infant-family system.”

WAIMH Handbook of Infant Mental Health, vol 1, p.25

Social Eye Contact

Shared Enjoyment

Social Reciprocity

Joint Attention

Social Referencing

Developmental Process



Ideas \longleftrightarrow Skill \longleftrightarrow Judgement

What are the Goals of Touchpoints?



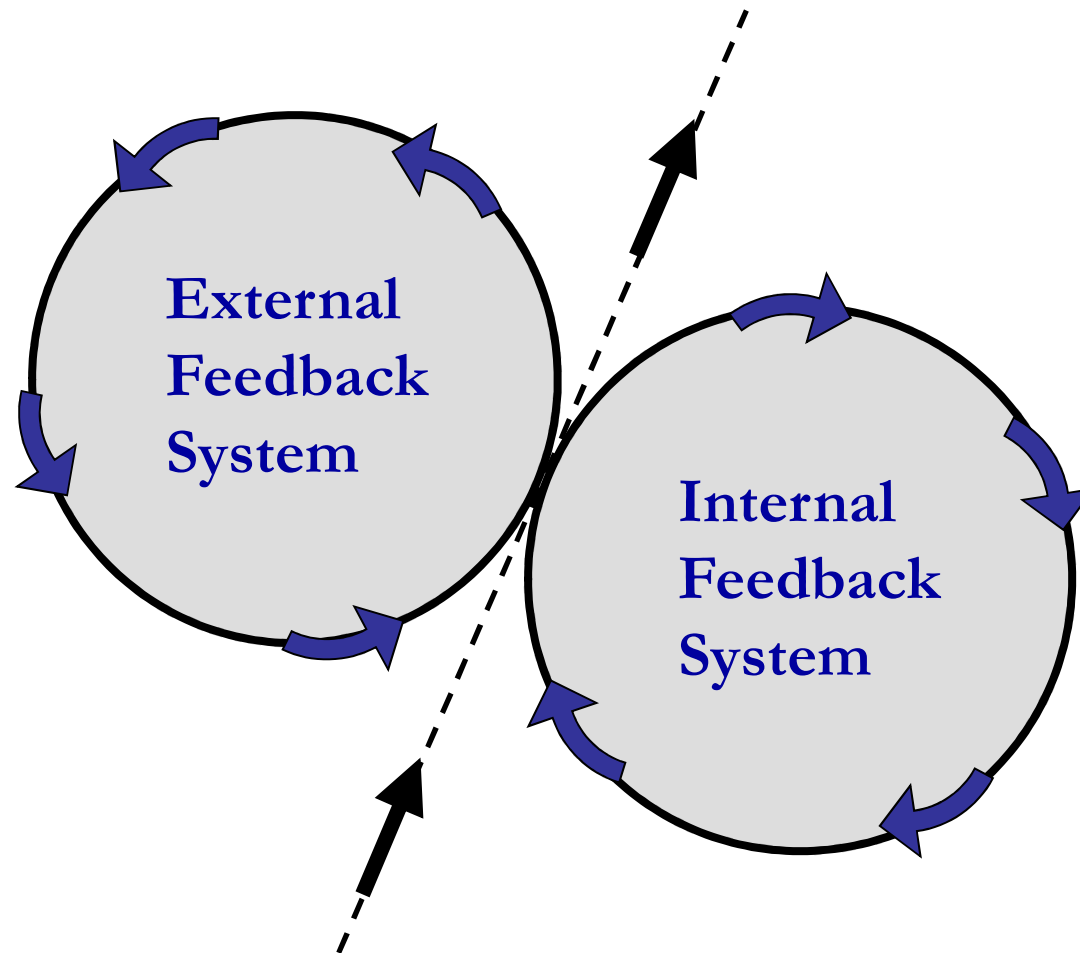
◆ **OPTIMAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

◆ **HEALTHY FUNCTIONAL FAMILIES**

What is Touchpoints?

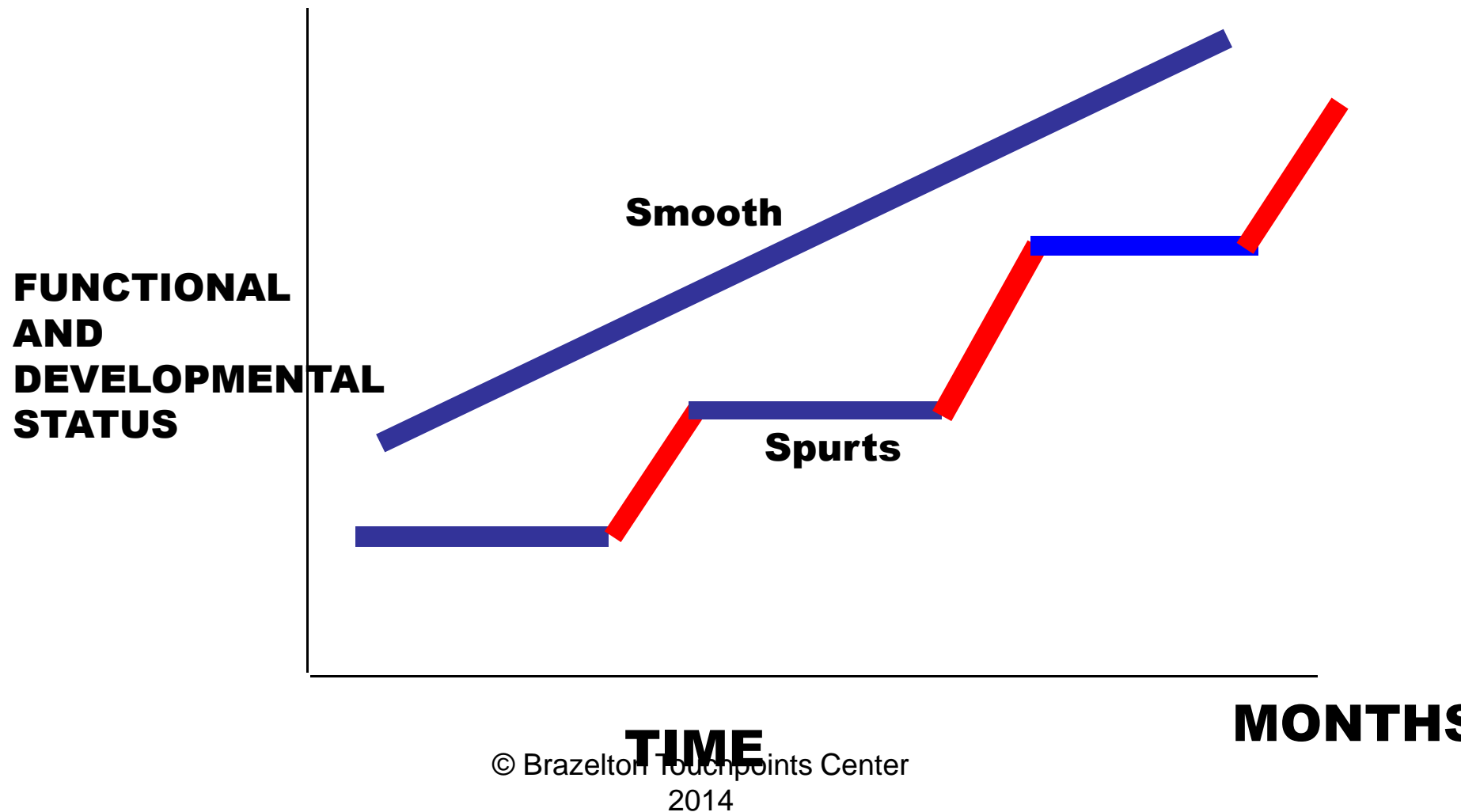
- A developmental phenomenon
- A way of understanding and being with families
- An evidence-based approach to working with families across multidisciplinary health and human services
- An approach to changing systems of care to support professional development and change in individual practice
- An international site network and a Boston-based professional development center

Three Sources Of Energy For Development

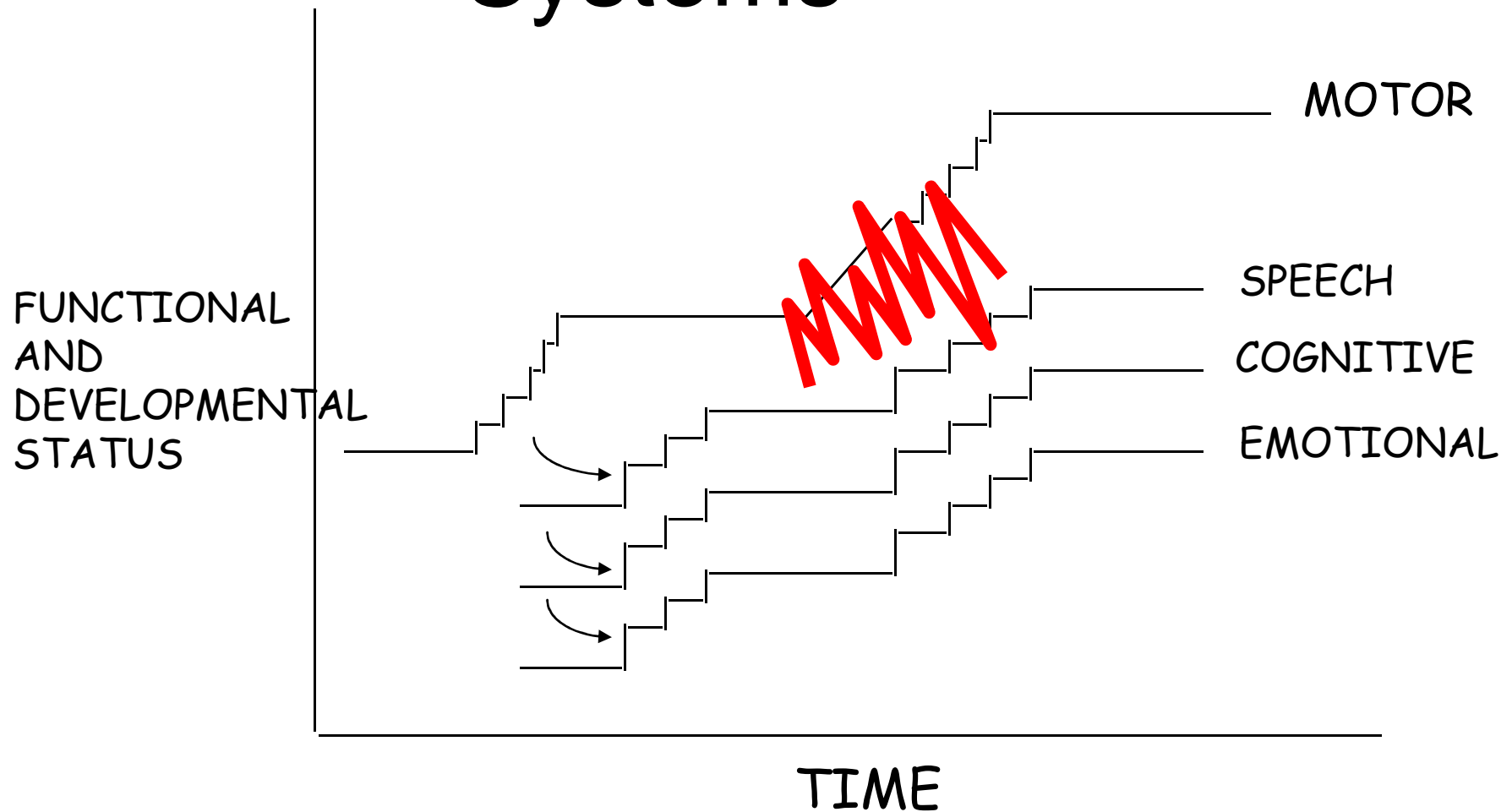


CNS Maturation as a Force

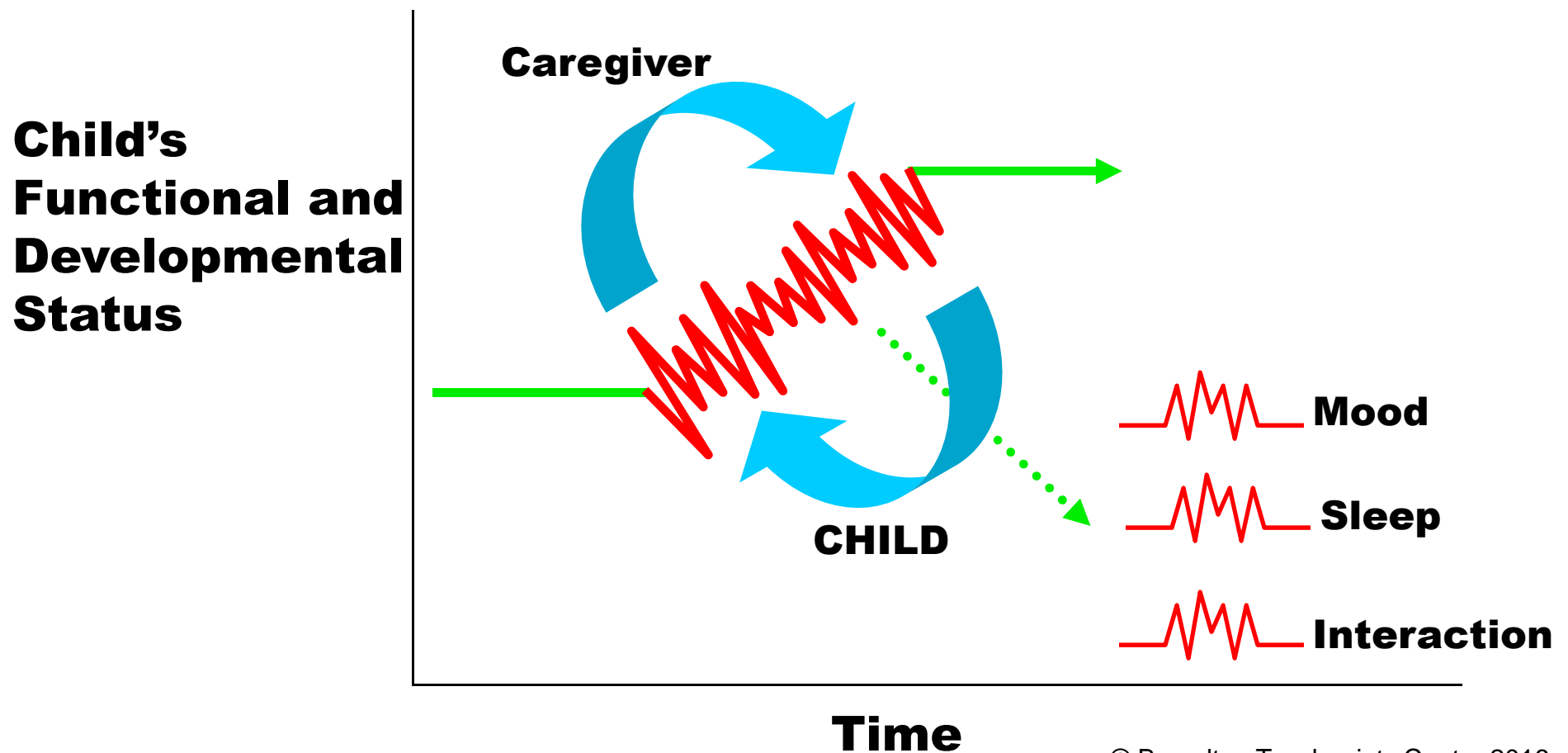
Developmental Process Is Not Linear



Disorganization in One System Can Disorganize Other Systems



Normal Disorganization is Regulated by the Caregiving System





Touchpoints are the predictable regressions and pauses in a child's development. They typically precede a spurt in a particular line of development. And, they are often accompanied by parental anxiety, frustration and self-doubt.

State Regulation: *Mutual Regulation*



The caregiver is supporting the baby trying to self-regulate.

Goals of IMH Prevention, Promotion, and Intervention

- Dyadic and systems work to offer another relational experience and future orientation.
- Facilitate attachment through attunement to child's cues and competencies

Emotional Competence

- Attachment/Detachment
- Esteem
- Empathy
- Altruism
- Learning Readiness
- Emotion Based Curriculum

Key Elements for Infant Mental Health



- 1. Physical and emotional health of pregnancy**
- 2. Support for healthy attachment in a safe and nurturing system**
- 1. Support for self-regulation**
- 2. Support for mutual regulation**
- 3. On-going predictable, contingent nurturance**



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
**Parent, Family, and
Community Engagement**

Contact us at:

NCPFCE@childrens.harvard.edu

Or

855-208-0909

(Toll Free)

VISIT:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family>



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Thank you! 2010

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Developingchild.harvard.edu

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eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family

MassAimh.org

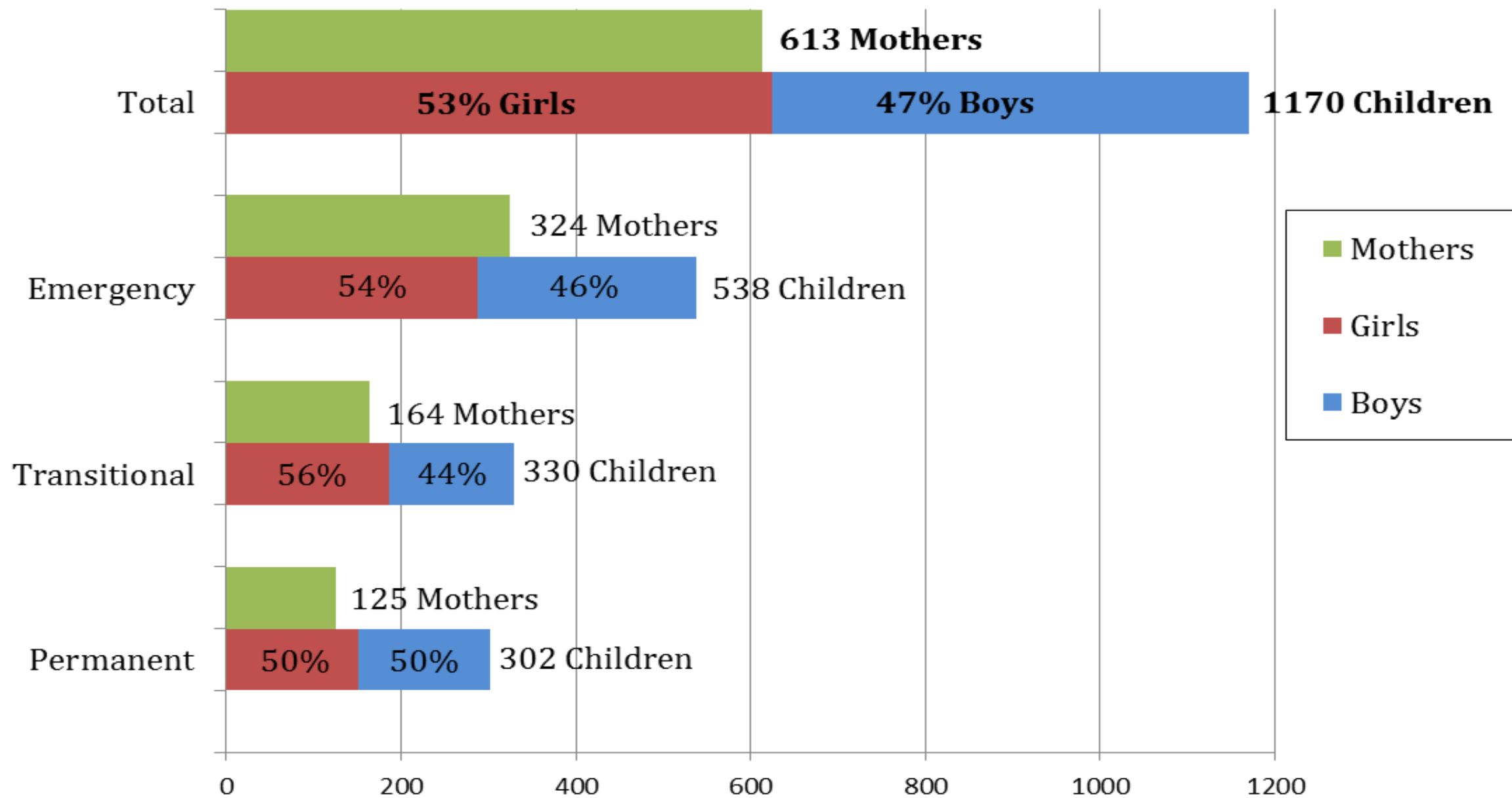
Changing children's trajectory

Joe Willard,
Vice President for Policy,
People's Emergency Center (PEC), Philadelphia, PA

PEC: Nurturing Families, Strengthening Neighborhoods, Driving Change

- 170 permanent supportive housing units, 8 EH units, 24 units of youth transitional housing units, 12 transitional housing units for HOH over 25 years of age
- Social services includes Center for Parenting and Early Childhood Education, Center for Employment and Training,
- Community and Economic Development Corporation
- Policy Dept: community organizing model
- \$9M budget
- www.pec-cares.org

Residents Served in PEC Housing Programs FY2011 - FY2013



Focus

Frustration

Data

Developmental Screenings

Building Early Links to Learning

Statewide homeless taskforce

African American Boys in Shelter

Trauma-informed training

Babies



Don't agonize, organize...

- No data
- Confused roles
- Focus on adults
- Reluctance of school district to engage
- Definitional problems
- Watching early childhood education system succeed and asking *'Why not our children?'*



Organized Children's Work Group

- 45 professionals
- Subcommittees:
 - Early Intervention
 - Data
 - Child welfare
 - Behavioral Health
 - Education



Outcomes

- Amended EH-TH contracts with “Children’s Service Agreement” that included **mandatory** offering of **developmental screening tool (ASQ)** in both emergency and transitional housing, lead testing, healthy meals
 - PA replicated in 2014
- System-wide **Trauma Training** program and curriculum, including **Sanctuary Model** (\$415K + \$250K)
- First ever **data report** on children and youth (<http://bit.ly/2a66gCh>)
- **Awareness campaigns** on students who experience homelessness

Early Intervention Outputs, (FY11-13)

- 2,322 children targeted; 86% (1,988) were assessed
- Emergency Housing
 - 1,416 # children 0-3 in Emergency Housing
 - 1,220 Total # children 0-3 who were assessed (86%)
 - 124 # children referred for Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) at Childlink (10%)
 - 80 # children who received MDEs (7% of those assessed)
 - 53 # children who received early intervention services (4% of those assessed)
- Transitional Housing
 - 906 Number of children 0-5 in Transitional Housing during the period
 - 768 Total number of children 0-5 who were assessed (85% of children)
 - 47 Number of children referred for services at Childlink or Elwyn (6% of those assessed)

Focus Statewide ...

(see <http://bit.ly/29MhFEx>)



Estimated Annual Cost of Child Homelessness in Pennsylvania:

\$321 Million

Updated November 2012

Summary:

Pennsylvania's state policy makers have reduced funding for strategies that address the needs of children who experience homelessness, resulting, in part, in increases in family homelessness. They should be cautious of the potential consequences of not supporting high quality, outcomes-based services that lead to ending homelessness for the families and improving child-well-being indicators like achieving academic success.

This report shows that the societal cost of childhood homelessness reaches well beyond the cost of providing housing. An examination of thirteen cost categories associated with child homelessness shows that the estimated *annual* marginal cost of child homelessness in Pennsylvania is \$321,506,087. This averages to an *annual* marginal cost of approximately \$33,943 per child for the 9,472 children who slept at least one night in shelter in 2011. Compared to the average cost of a child who is not homeless - ending homelessness should be a desired societal outcome

It is common for children who experience homelessness to be served by multiple systems. For example, Ms. Smith is the young mother of two children. Over the past few years, her children were served by an early intervention specialist, the foster care system, the county child welfare agency, and the emergency housing system. Ms. Smith is now stably housed and her children are no longer receiving services.

Childhood Homelessness in Pennsylvania

Summary



October 2013

Staci Perlman, Ph.D., University of Delaware

2013 People's Emergency Center Visiting Scholar

Joe Willard, Vice President of Policy, People's Emergency Center

Led to statewide task force and report see <http://bit.ly/29SPLdd>

**JOINT STATE
GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**
General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**HOMELESSNESS IN PENNSYLVANIA:
CAUSES, IMPACTS, AND SOLUTIONS
A TASK FORCE AND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
MARCH 2016**

Final Draft Report



*Serving the General Assembly of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Since 1937*

Building Early Links to Learning (BELL), 2016

MAIN GOALS:

- 1) Enhance the developmental friendliness of emergency and transitional housing
- 2) Increase enrollment in quality early childhood education for children experiencing homelessness by 20 %
- 3) Collaboration between emergency housing & early childhood education providers
- 4) See <http://bit.ly/29bO8Xi>

BELL Activities

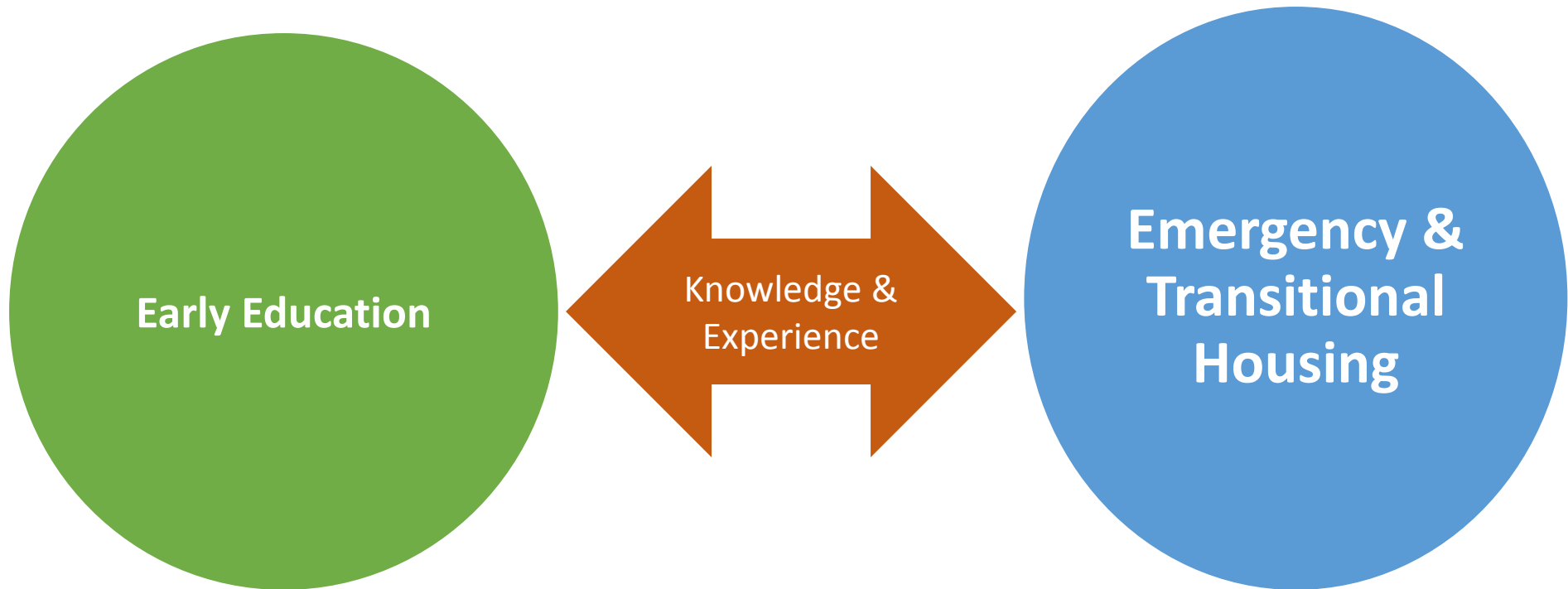
Self-Assessment of EH programs

Understanding ECE use

Supporting/facilitating ECE enrollment

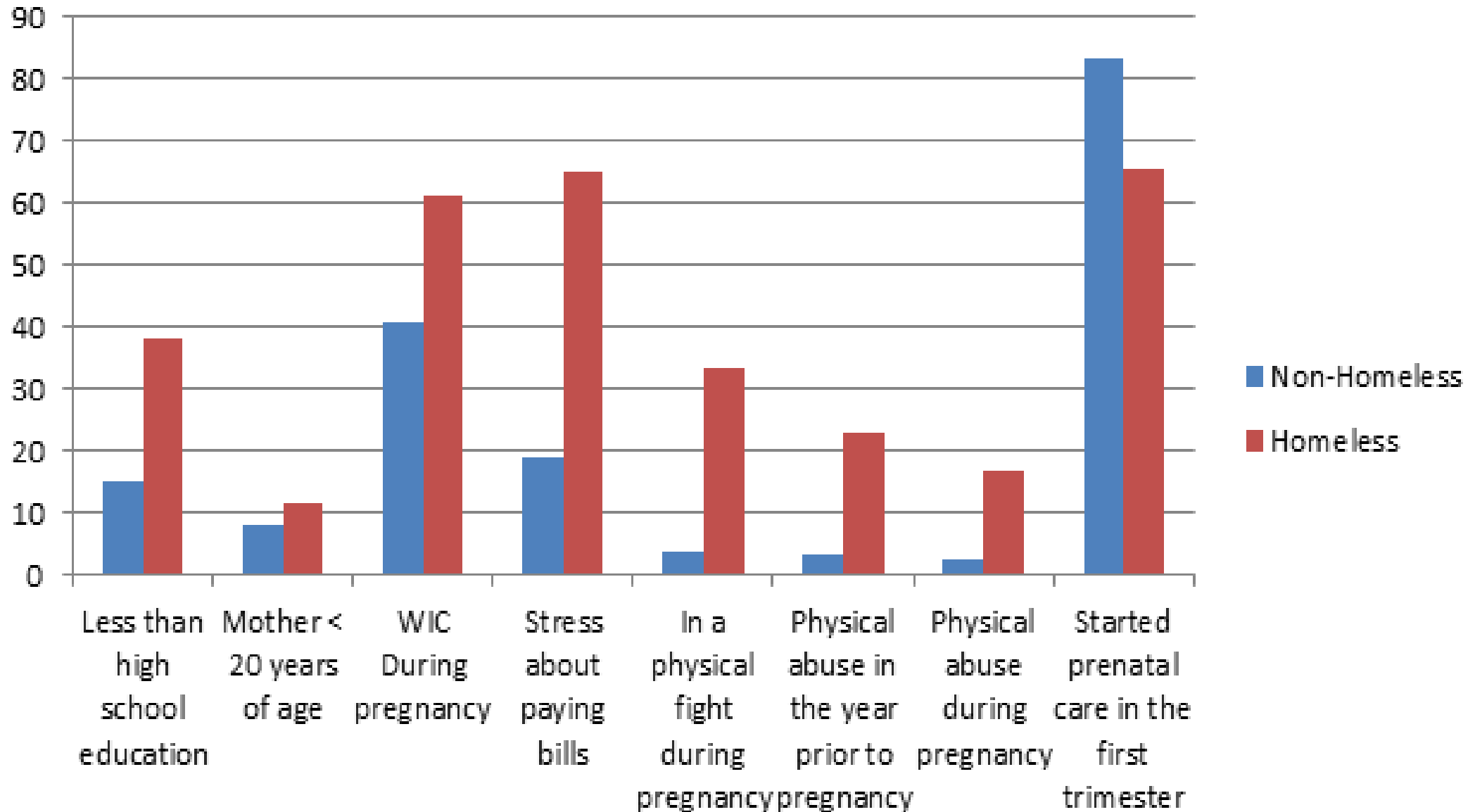
Building links between systems

Building Links!!!



Babies

(see <http://bit.ly/29bO8Xi>)



Healthy Babies Initiative

- Manages immunization program at intake center
- Nurses work in 3 centers with babies ages 0-4 months
- Nurses support 12 emergency housing programs weekly with babies ages 0-4 months



Improved assessments

- **Family Advocacy & Support Tool (FAST)**: an examination into the health of family relationships that assists in planning for services and reunification
- Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale
- Interactive Parenting Scale
- Measurement of Empathy in Adult-Child Interactions Scale (MEACI)
- Parent Competence Scale
- Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)
- Traumatic Events Screening Inventory (TESI-C)
- Parenting Stress Index
- Beck Depression Inventory
- Beck Hopelessness Scale
- Posttraumatic Diagnostic Scale

African American Boys in Shelter (see <http://bit.ly/29MhFEx>)

