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Current Projects

Development of a Preventive Practice Model Aligned With the Family First Prevention Services Act in Partnership With the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (NC).

With support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, our team is working to build the capacity of DSS to integrate implementation science into their child welfare services – specifically through development of a preventive practice model aligned with Family First. Key activities include formation of an implementation team to oversee and guide the effort, identification of preventive service goals, assessment of strengths and needs of the current service array relevant to these goals, assessment of the contextual fit and feasibility of state-selected and additional evidence-informed practices identified by the county, selection of a final preventive service array to prevent out-of-home placement and development of a stage-based implementation plan.

Development of a Practice Profile to Document Use of a Predictive Risk Model, the Decision Aid Tool, in Two Colorado Counties.

With support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, our team has partnered with Douglas and Larimer Counties to develop a Decision Aid Tool practice profile, which describes the guiding principles, core practices, and activities carried out by child welfare supervisors and caseworkers as they use the tool to inform their screening decisions. The purpose of a practice profile is to operationalize the guiding principles and core components of a given practice so that it can be implemented and replicated consistently and with quality.

Building Trusting Relationships to Support Evidence Use in Human Services.

In a recent William T. Grant Foundation study, trusting relationships were strongly linked to successful implementation and sustained evidence use. With additional support from the William T. Grant Foundation, this study will assess the feasibility of developing and delivering a training and coaching curriculum for building trusting relationships among implementation team members supporting the scaling of an evidence-based peer mentoring program for foster youth. The study will also assess whether building trusting relationships among team members and community partners contributes to short-term outcomes such as relational cohesion on implementation teams; capability, opportunity, and motivation to use research evidence; and commitment and resilience for implementation.