



A UCEDD's Approach to Addressing Early Childhood Needs

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The Context: New Mexico

Geographically large state

Primarily Rural and Frontier

Minority Majority Population

~2 million people

High teen birth rate (46.2%)

<30% children in families w/income
<FPL

37% children without secure parental
employment

68% children enrolled in Medicaid

22% of birth-3 y/o at risk of disability

NM Family, Infant, Toddler Program
(Part C) serves children at
environmental and bio-medical



Where we started



Early Childhood Evaluation Program (ECEP): statewide developmental diagnostic evaluations for birth-3 in their community; state funding thru Part C, Medicaid billing

REACH Telehealth Program: training and consultation through distance technology; federal OAT funds

Early Childhood Network (ECN): collaborative training, consultation and TA to Part C programs statewide; Part C state and federal funding





Growth in EC Services: 1st step

FOCUS Program: home visiting, EI, medical care and service coordination to families at environmental risk, including prenatal drug exposure; funding thru state Part C, Medicaid, legislatively appropriated state funds

Development of **Infant Mental Health (IMH)** capacity thru development of NMAIMH and endorsement process; IMH services through Medicaid billing

Development of **Psychology internship and post doc program** in EC

Adoption of **Reflective Supervision Practice**



Growth in EC Services: 2nd step

Reflejos Familiares: investigated **prenatal** interventions for women w/history of substance abuse for improved child outcomes; federal funds thru ACF/AIA

Milagro Case Management: a perinatal substance abuse prevention and treatment program; merged with Focus program; funded by University Hospital

VISION Program: home visiting program for 1st born children; state funds thru CYFD

Home Visiting Training (HVT): training, support, reflective practice for state funded HV programs; IMH practices embedded; standardized practice and outcomes: funding thru CYFD initially state funds, federal funds added with ACA/MIECHV thru contract



Growth in EC Services: 3rd step

Nurse Family Partnership Program (NFP): nurse home visiting for first time mothers starting at 28 weeks gestation through 2nd year of life; evidence-based model focused on highest risk mothers; contract with CYFD for federal funds thru ACA/MIECHV

APS Safe Schools Healthy Children: federal funds, contracted

IMH services for birth-5 and their families; high risk area

Parents-As-Teachers Home Visiting program: An evidence based home visiting program with paraprofessionals as home visitors

Early Childhood ECHO Project: training and TA to NM communities with high risk factors but no HV program using ECHO telehealth model; contract with CYFD for federal funds thru ACA/MIECHV



Growth in EC Services: 4th step

Lea County Nurse Family Partnership: expansion of NFP to rural county in SE corner of NM; contract with CYFD for federal funds thru ACA/MIECHV

Parent-As-Teachers (PAT) South Valley Program: home visits by para-professionals using an evidence-based model, prenatally and through a child's third birthday, with a focus on the parent-child relationship as the foundation for learning; same geographic zone as NFP; contract with CYFD for federal funds thru ACA/MIECHV

New VISION Program: home visiting program targeting mono-lingual Spanish speaking families w/children under 5 and/or teen parents; state funding through CYFD

Where we are now

What's changed:

Reflejos Familiares not funded again

APS Safe Schools Healthy Children federal funding ending

Ongoing programs:

ECEP, ECN, Focus, IMH treatment, HVT, NFP, EC
ECHO

Programs just starting:

Lea County NFP, PAT South Valley, new VISION
Program



Elements for Success

- Existing UCEDD with strong training, TA and clinical sectors
- Strong relationships with key state partners
- UCEDD staff and faculty participation on task forces, planning committees, state associations
- UCEDD history of starting new initiatives for hard to reach populations
- UCEDD's telehealth and distance technology infrastructure and experience
- Content expertise through staff and faculty development and recruitment





Where next?

Work with state agencies and legislators on sustainable funding

On-going data analysis to determine which models of home visiting work best in our state

Continued expansion of NFP into high risk rural communities

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