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The Power of Prevention:
Teaming Up for Virginia
Families

April 9, 2019

Change in Mind

Applying Neurosciences to
Revitalize Communities



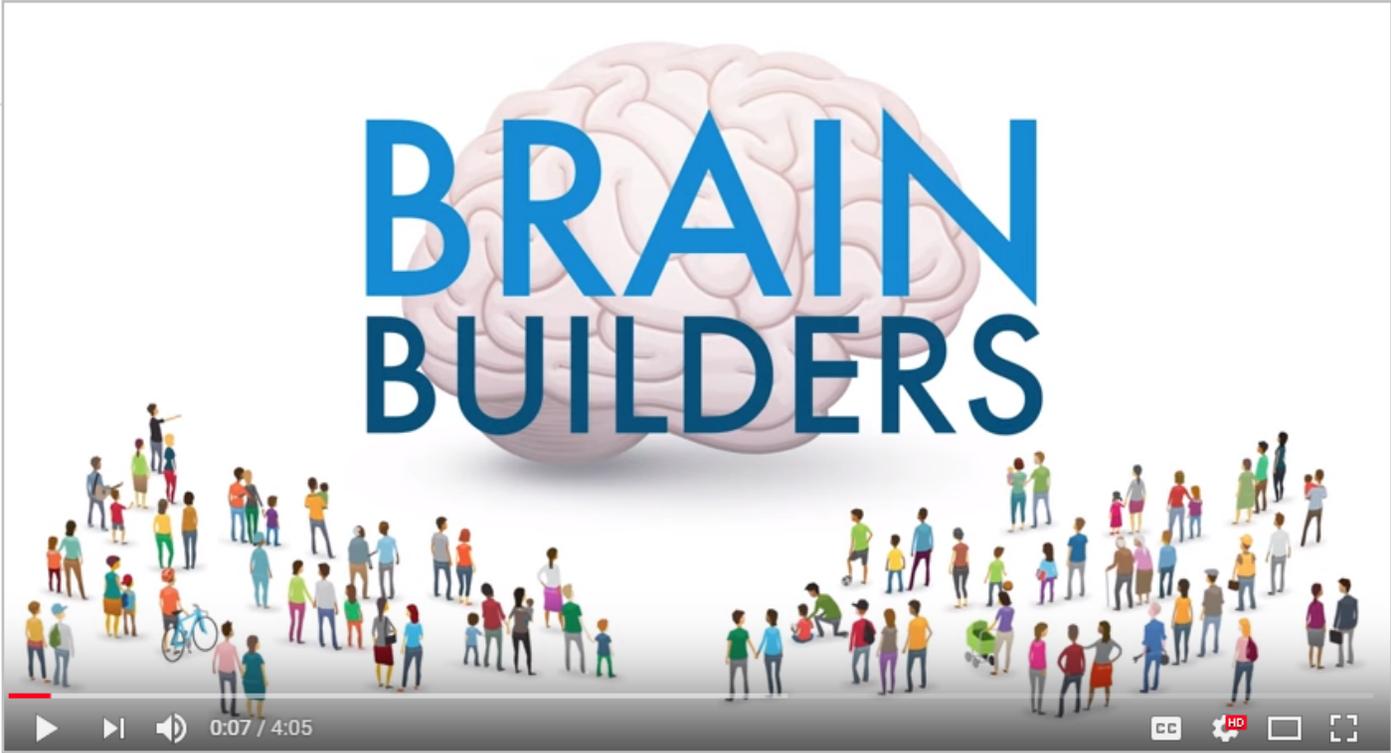
Vision: A Healthy and Equitable Society



Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

is a strategic action network of thousands of committed social sector leaders driving to achieve our vision of a healthy and equitable society through the excellence, distinction, and influence of our network.





Core Story of the Brain



Adverse Childhood Experiences

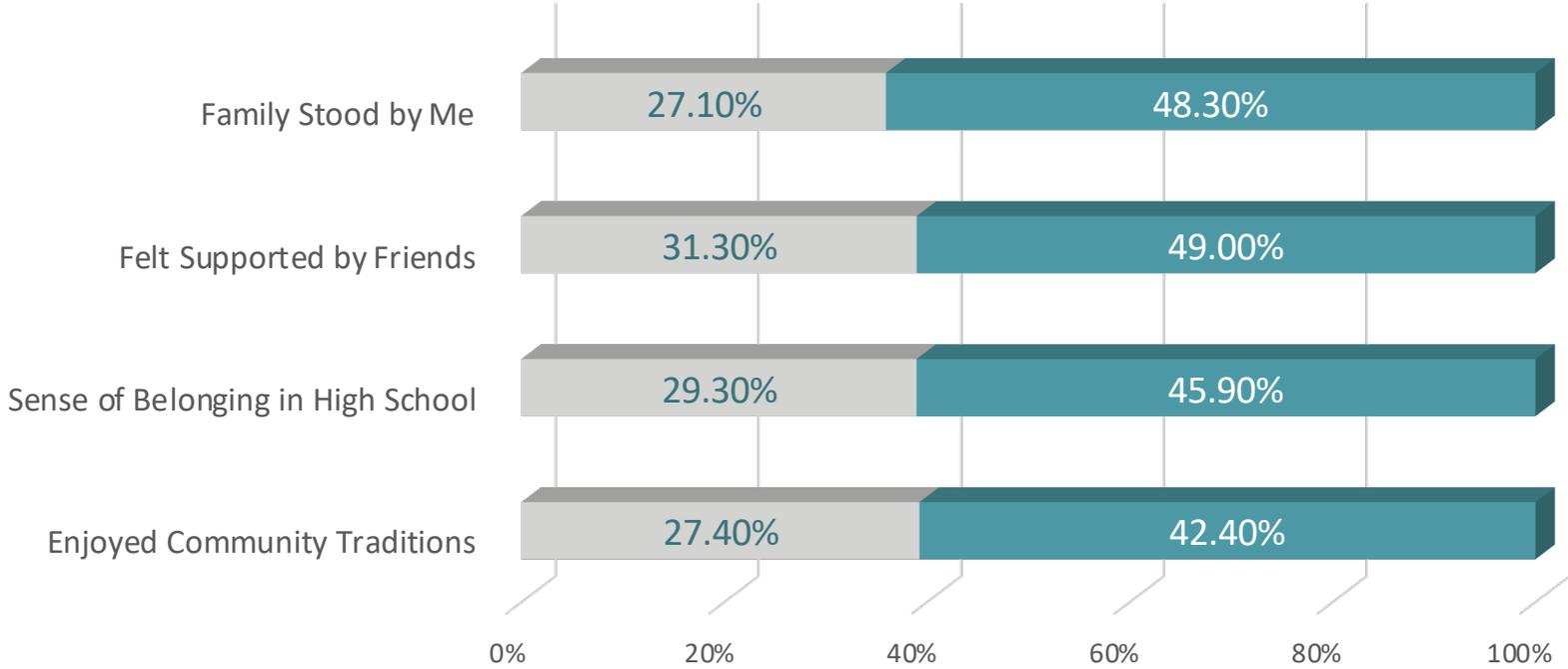
“If we could somehow end child abuse and neglect, the eight hundred pages of DSM... would be shrunk to a pamphlet in two generations.”

Dr. John Briere



Balancing ACEs with HOPE

Adults with 3 or more ACEs



■ % with Depression and positive experience ■ % with Depression and did not have positive experience

Sege, et al



3 Principles to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

Support responsive relationships for children and adults

Strengthen core life skills

Reduce sources of stress in the lives of children and families

Change in Mind Initiative

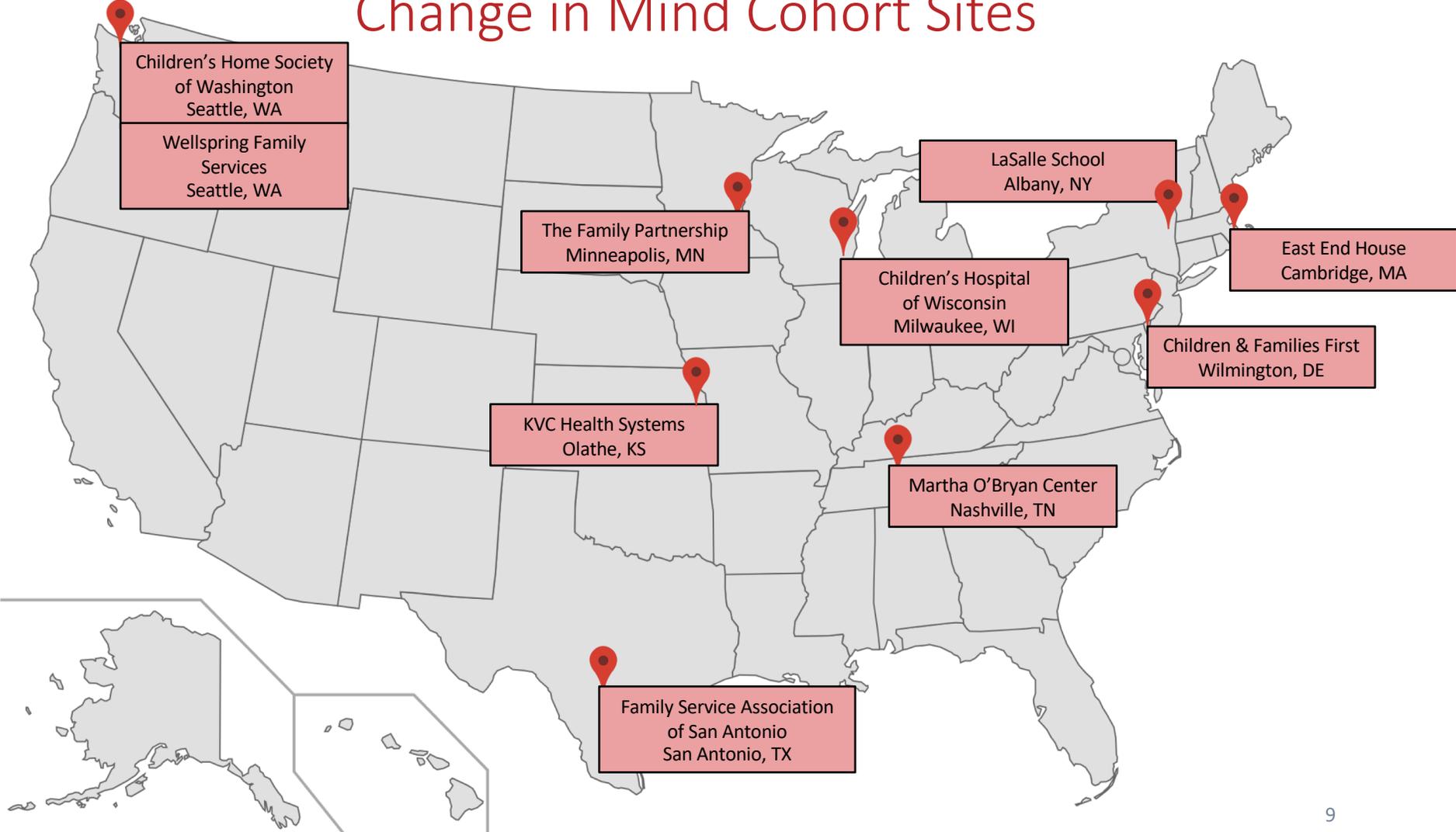
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, The Palix Foundation & The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Two country cohort involved 5 non-governmental organizations based in Alberta and 10 U.S. based social service organizations

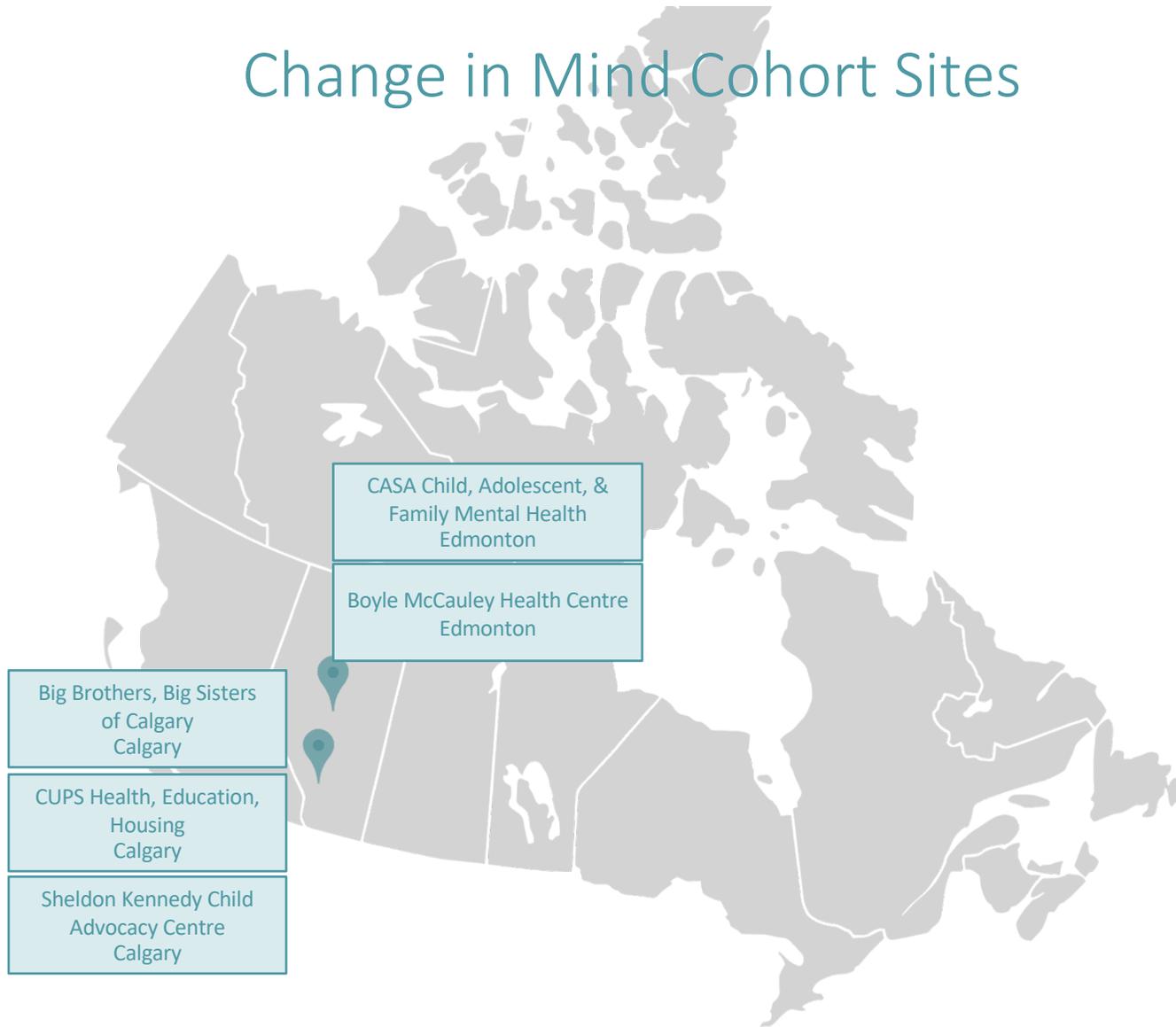
Contracted with FrameWorks Institute on framing and strategic communications

Contracted with Community Science on the developmental evaluation

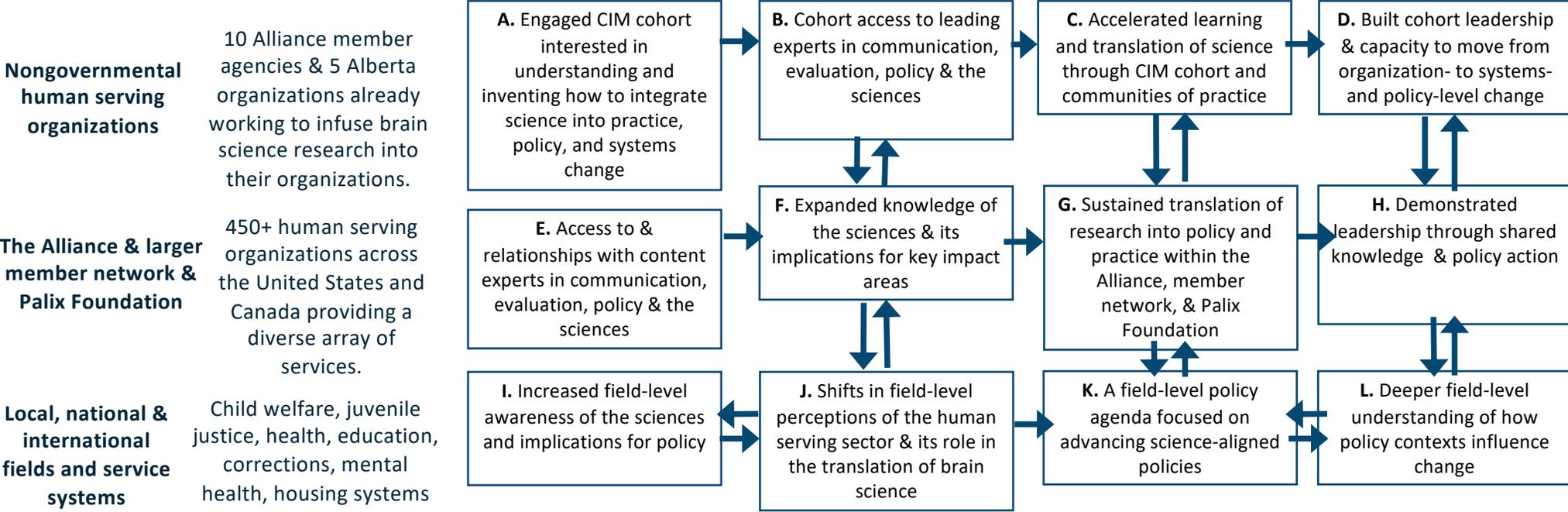
Change in Mind Cohort Sites



Change in Mind Cohort Sites



Change in Mind Initiative Theory of Change



These streams are distinct, but mutually reinforcing. Additional causal pathways or links will be uncovered as the initiative evolves and we will learn more about those pathways through developmental methods and system change approaches.

Using a Brain Science-Infused Lens in Policy Development

Values:

1. Always consider the best interests of the child and family.
2. Recognizes the impact of early childhood interventions on both learning and health outcomes and the critical role of caregivers in supporting children's development.
3. Includes the voice of those with lived experiences.
4. Promotes resilience, health and well-being.
5. Responsive and adaptive to new science as it emerges.

Using a Brain Science-Infused Lens in Policy Development

Values:

6. Promotes cultural awareness and sensitivity.
7. Advances equity.
8. Facilitates alignment between and among public and private sectors at the local, state, national and international levels.
9. Supports innovation, creativity, and tolerance for learning through failure in pursuit of better outcomes for children, youth, and families.
10. Promotes the use of the social ecological framework and takes into account the inter-relationships among individual, family, community, and society.

Using a Brain Science-Infused Lens in Policy Development

Principles:

- A. Uses a multi-generational approach to supporting healthy development and mitigating adversity.
- B. Emphasizes the importance of actively building skills, including executive functioning and self regulation, when designing strategies to promote the healthy development of young children, adolescents, and adults.
- C. Employs approaches that are centered around the early years, including prenatal, while also focusing on building adult core capabilities.

Using a Brain Science-Infused Lens in Policy Development

Principles:

- D. Ensures implementation science and evaluation are integrated into approaches to provide accountability and evidence of effectiveness and efficiency.
- E. Identifies resources to develop and pilot new ideas based on the best available evidence to date.

Change in Mind Evaluation Questions

1. How is brain science best translated into organizational culture, policy and practice?
2. How do organizations influence and accelerate systems change within their communities?
3. How can systems change work be accelerated within a larger policy context?
4. How can we effectively accelerate peer learning using a cohort model?

Lesson 1: Substantive Changes in All Sites

All Change in Mind sites made important changes inside and outside their organizations, using strategies appropriate to their context, resources, and client needs.

Lesson 2: Politics of Changing Paradigms

The sites were clear about what brain science concepts they incorporated into their work, but less clear about how to integrate new research findings into pre-existing trauma-informed and resilience-focused paradigms.

Lesson 3: Technical and Adaptive Solutions

Sites used a mix of technical (top-down) leadership, adaptive (bottom-up) innovation, and inside-out (motivated by a common vision) collaboration strategies.

Lesson 4: Mirrored Transformation Strategies

1. Strategic leadership
2. Ally networks
3. Reframed communications
4. Workforce development
5. Resource alignment
6. Learning and evaluation focus
7. Scaling the prevention continuum

Lesson 5: Intertwined Pathways of Change

Through experience, sites learned that their internal and external efforts were mutually reinforcing. Small internal experiments increased site capacity to do external work, which resulted in more internal change.

Lesson 6: Data-Informed Learning Cycles

Sites used analyses of clients' adverse childhood experiences, community conditions, and resilience to determine where to focus their change efforts. They also used rapid cycle and developmental evaluation methods to assess their efforts' effectiveness and accelerate their progress.

21st Century Child Welfare System

Changing the Experience of the Child

1. Public health approach
2. Use of data and evidence-based interventions
3. Promote and support innovation
4. Alignment of brain science research
5. Engage all voices, especially those with lived experiences
6. Professionalize treatment foster care

Moving to a Public Health Approach

Child Safety Protection

- Screen in all infants
- Coordinated investigations
- Work load improvements
- Case Reviews
- Birth match
- Injury recognition
- Data sharing
- Standards for mandatory reporters

Child and Family Wellbeing Primary Prevention

- Attention to Social Determinants
- Home visiting
- Parent support
- Address Disparities
- Housing
- Transportation
- Injury prevention
- Family health
- Data sharing

Thank You!

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#changeinmindcohort



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

