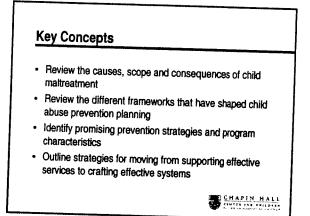




Handbut #1

Effective Prevention Strategies for Child Abuse and Neglect Deborah Daro

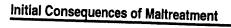


Common Causal Theories of Abuse

- · Parents lack knowledge or experience
- · Parents suffer psychosocial stress
- · Parents lack sufficient material resources to provide for their children
- Parents live in communities that provide little if any support for the care of children

2004 Reported Cases

- 1.8 million referrals involving 3 million children were filed with child welfare agencies
- 869,000 or 12.3 per 1,000 children substantiated
- Type of mailtreatment
 - · 60% neglect
 - · 20% physical abuse
 - · 10% sexual abuse
 - 7% emotional maltreatment



- · Physical impacts ranging from minor injuries to death · 1,500 child abuse fatalities in 2004
- Temporary and permanent developmental delays
- · Poor self-concept/psychological functioning
- · Aggressive and violent behaviors
- · Poor social interactions and peer relationships
- Poor school performance

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Prevention's Evolution in the US

- Wave 1: Raising Awareness (1962-1980)
- Wave 2: Building Service Continuums (1980's)
- Wave 3: Crafting Integrated Systems (1990's)

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Wave 1: Raising Awareness

- Objective: Public education/awareness
- Message: Look and you will find
- Typical service response:
 - · Reporting laws
 - Professional education
 - Public awareness efforts
 - Sporadic education and support services

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Wave 1 Lessons

- · Abuse is complex, difficult to define
- More abuse cases than first anticipated
- Abuse is difficult to detect in less extreme forms

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Wave 2: Building Service Continuums

- Objective: Establish many services
- Message: Let a 1,000 flowers bloom
- Typical service response:
 - Emergency outreach
 - · Parent education and self-help groups
 - Child assault prevention programs
 - Family resource centers

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Wave 2 Lessons

- Change is possible but not universal-many high risk children are left behind
- Child abuse in only one of many problems children face
- Not all programs should be replicated selection must be strategic and based on evidence

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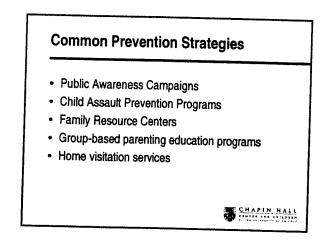
Converging Themes Shaping Policy

- Dissatisfaction with existing prevention efforts
- Brain research reinforcing the importance of the first few years of life
- Programmatic evidence supporting home visitation services
- Political interest in addressing a set of related outcomes well suited to early intervention

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Wave 3: Crafting Integrated Systems Objective: Bring prevention "to scale" Message: Begin at birth and change both parents and context Typical service response: Intensive home visitation services Service integration Community capacity/normative change Outcome-based performance

Horizontal Image	$ \square $	Vertical Image
Multiple age cohorts		Birth to Five
Universal OR Targeted		Targeted & Universal
Replicating Models		Replicating Best Practices
Change Individuals		Change individuals & Context



Public Awareness Campaigns

- · Strengths
 - · Capacity to focus public attention on issue
 - Ability to alter perceptions and, in some cases, change behaviors
- Limitations

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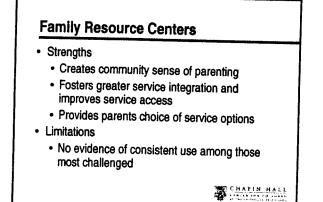
Minimal impacts on those engaged in serious violence or who face strong counter message

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Child Assault Prevention Programs

- Strengths
 - Effectively conveys key safety concepts to potential victims
 - Reduces levels of school violence/bullying and, possibly, sexual abuse
- Limitations
 - · Many core concepts are not well received
 - Competing cultural messages minimize sustained impacts

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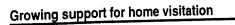
Group-Based Educational Services Strengths Improves parenting knowledge and skills, particularly among teen parents Creates opportunities for social networking Limitations High risk parents less likely to participate in groups on an ongoing basis

· Services are not individualized

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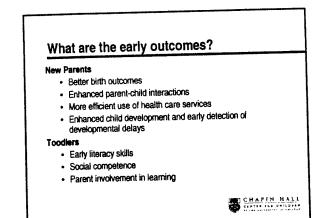
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- Recommendation from the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Success of the Nurse Family Partnership and other home visitation efforts in achieving positive outcomes
- Hawaii's statewide expansion of Healthy Start
- Established a promising pathway for reaching the most challenged families

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What are the longer-term outcomes?

New Parents

- Reduced welfare dependency
- Higher school completion and job retention
- Reduction in the frequency and severity of maltreatment

Toddlers

- Stronger school performance
- Fewer behavior problems
- Higher high school graduation rates

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Promising service characteristics

- Solid internal consistency linking program elements to desired outcomes
- Forming established relationship with family and sustain it long enough to achieve outcomes
- Provide direct assessment and services to children
- Solid organizational capacity
- Build strong linkages among local providers

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Promising staffing patterns

- Prevention is about building relationships not delivering a product – hire relationship builders
- For the most intensive services, maintain low caseloads (15 per worker)
- Provide staff comprehensive initial and in-service training opportunities
- Provide staff multiple opportunities for individual and group supervision

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What elements remain unclear?

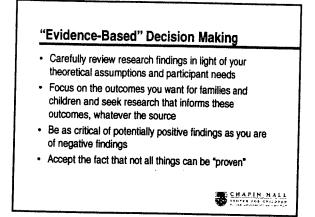
- The appropriate target population
- · The importance of curriculum consistency
- The optimal service duration and intensity
- The critical qualifications for home visitors
- The appropriate locus of administrative control



Building Effective Systems

- · Establish your vision form follows substance
- · Identify resources human, fiscal and cultural
- Build in stages self-sufficient components that can link to other options as they emerge
- · Secure public buy-in raise the issue's profile
- All service is local quality is critical so insure local providers "own" the product

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Today's Prevention Context

- Strong undercurrents fueled by competing policy agendas and program models
- Larger and more complex policy and service networks
- · Fiscal uncertainty at the National and State level
- · Fear and a loss of collective optimism

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The Public Policy Challenge in Prevention

- Building broad collaborations to share collective responsibility for promoting child well-being and healthy child development.
- Sustaining a unique platform for addressing the reality and needs of abused children and their families.
- Building community systems that foster personal responsibility for child protection.

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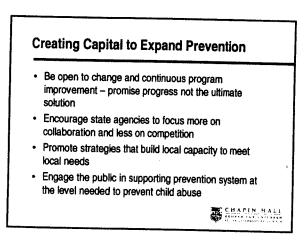
Using Context to Prevent Abuse

Technical solutions

Creating programs and supportive services for new parents

- Adaptive challenges
 Creating a culture which validates seeking help and giving help
- Altering institutional structures and openness to collaboration and shared responsibly for common objectives
- Altering the political process to embrace investment in young children

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