

Family Resource Networks

Interface between FRNs
and Child Intervention

Children's Services
November 26, 2020



Purpose

- Validate what we have heard so far
- Gather more ideas for fostering a relationship with Child Intervention
- Re-set expectations for the FRN program

What's driving the relationships with CI?

One of the objectives in the EOI stated:

- Develop collaborative and cooperative referral pathways with the Child Intervention (CI) system as a mechanism to:
 - prevent the need for CI services; and
 - support families with CI status who are transitioning from intervention

What are collaborative referral pathways?

- What is a collaborative and cooperative referral pathway?
 - What do we mean by collaborative/cooperative?
 - Is this relationship bi-directional or one-way?
 - What are the mechanics of a referral?
 - What do we need to support this referral process?
- Does every agency in the FRN need a relationship with CI?
 - If not, who manages the CI relationship?

What are collaborative referral pathways?

- How do we know families are “on the door step” of CI?
 - What's the criteria/threshold?
- What CI-related “issues” do FRNs need help in navigating?
 - Duty to Report
 - Families with open files
- Can families receive services from FRNs and CI at the same time? The full spectrum of FRN services?

What have we heard so far?

- There is a spectrum of connections/engagement with CI
- Connections have been made at a local level using a variety of tactics
- There are multiple CI offices with varying levels of:
 - understanding of FRNs
 - staff turnover
 - CI practices

What have we heard so far?

- Some apprehension to serve families that are involved with CI given their complexities;
 - some agencies may not have the capacity or adequate resources to support them in a way that is needed
- Need to define who are the “best fit” families to avoid offloading complex families to FRNs

Recommendations for Moving Forward

- A marketing strategy with promotional materials that describe the FRN program
- Guidance on what a relationship should look like
- Building a common definition of “collaboration” as a principle for working with CI
- Build CI leadership capacity to understand FRNs and the broad system of supports for families.
- Leveraging FRN-EI and Contract Specialists
- Access to basic info like office locations, key contacts

Recalibrating Expectations

- FRNs are part of a service continuum for families that includes child intervention.
 - We are an important part of the social support system.
- At this point we don't have a clear set of rules for engaging with CI; we need to build them together.
- Our work over the next few months will include socializing CI to FRNs. The relationship will follow.

Questions?

