

The Long Beach Child Welfare- Early Education Partnership (LB-CWEEP)

2017 Oklahoma Early Childhood Research Symposium

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Steve Sturm
Early Education Programs Administrator
Los Angeles County

Purpose

Infrastructure building pilot project to support collaborative relationships between child welfare, ECE, and other early childhood & family support systems **to maximize referral & enrollment of CW-supervised children 0-4-years in high quality ECE.**

Project Partners

LB-CWEEP was collaboratively lead by the **UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities**, the **Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) Head Start**, & the **Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services (LADCFS) South County Regional Office & Division of Education & Mentoring**. LB-CWEEP was evaluated by the **Michigan State University School of Social Work**. Other partners included local ECE, foster care, mental health, advocacy & parent organizations.



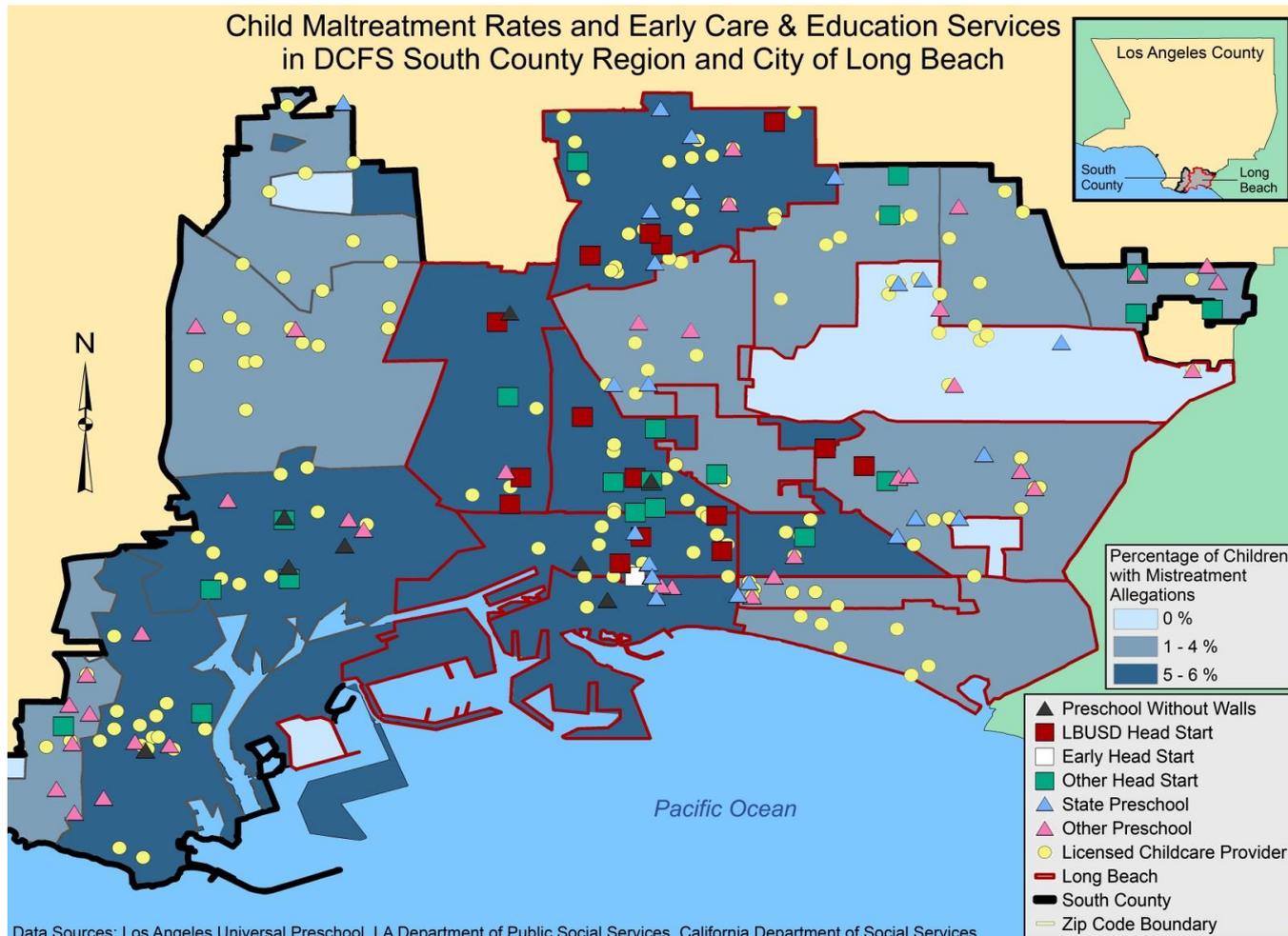
**Los Angeles
County
Department
of Children &
Family Services**



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**
**SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL
WORK**

Target Community/Population

Children < 5 years old with open child welfare cases living in the
City of Long Beach, CA



Approach & Activities

LB-CWEEP Model

Expand **ELECTRONIC DCFS-HEADSTART REFERRAL SYSTEM** to include Long Beach Head Start & Early Head Start programs

Implement system for referring & **LINKING** DCFS 0-4yr olds living in Long Beach whom LBUSD Head Start/Early Head Start doesn't have capacity to serve **TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE, HIGH QUALITY ECE PROGRAMS** in community

Develop & implement **TRAININGS** for (a.) child welfare staff, (b.) ECE providers, (c.) Dependency County personnel & (d.) parents/caregivers on benefits of ECE for children in the CWSE & how to navigate relevant systems to obtain services

Convene **LONG BEACH CWEEP ADVISORY COMMITTEE** charged with improving service coordination to better meet ECE needs of 0-4 year olds in the child welfare system

Project Outputs

Electronic Referral System

- Expanded to include **23 Long Beach USD Head Start & Early Head Start (HS/EHS) sites**
- Expanded to include **0-2 year olds** (in addition to 3-4 year olds) in CW system living in Long Beach

ECE Linkage

- **Staff person designated** to process & track CW referrals
- **List of 15 alternative 'high quality' ECE providers identified & referrals made** when HS/EHS not most appropriate ECE option for families
- **Confirmed Linkage to alternative ECE providers** not routinized until end of grant

Training

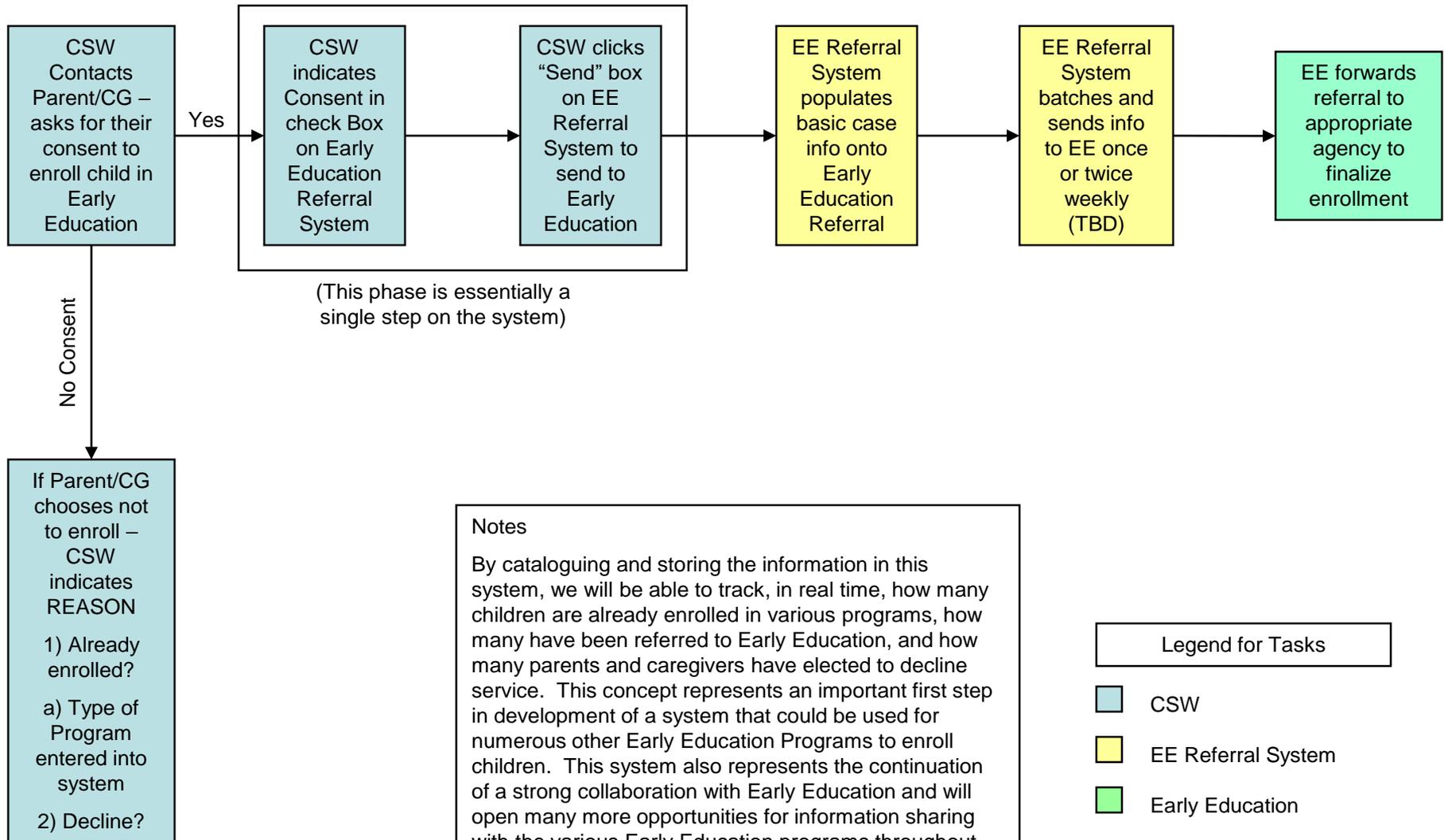
- Developed standardized training curriculum
- Provided 12 conjoint trainings with **243 CW & ECE staff/providers**
- Provided 7 trainings with **61 parents/caregivers**
- Provided 1 training with **21 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)**
- Provided 1 abbreviated training with 10 of 13 Juvenile Dependency Court **judges & 6 other**

Advisory Committee

- **Convened 17 partner organizations**
- **Bi-monthly meetings**
- Developed ECE & CW agency **information sharing protocol & form**
- Developed **data infrastructure plan** for tracking ECE outcomes for CW population
- Developed project **sustainability plan**

DCFS EARLY EDUCATION REFERRAL SYSTEM

SCHEMATIC FLOW



Notes

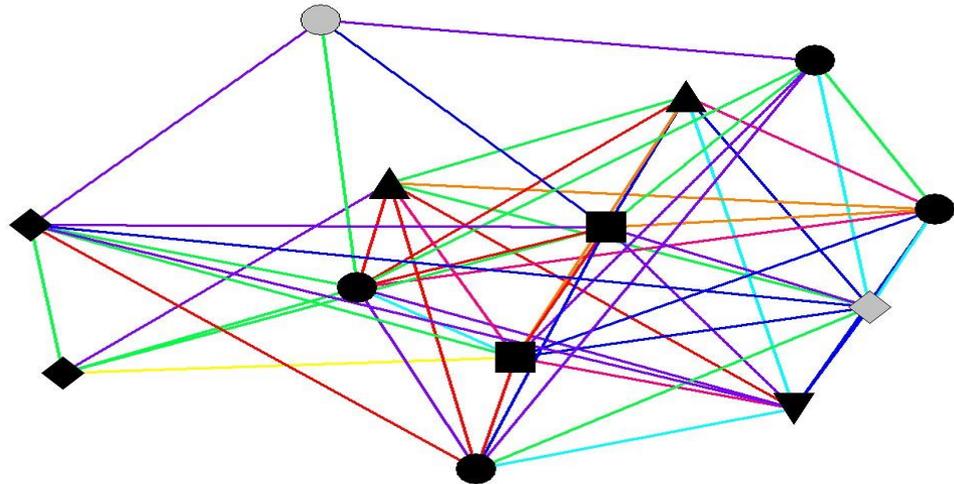
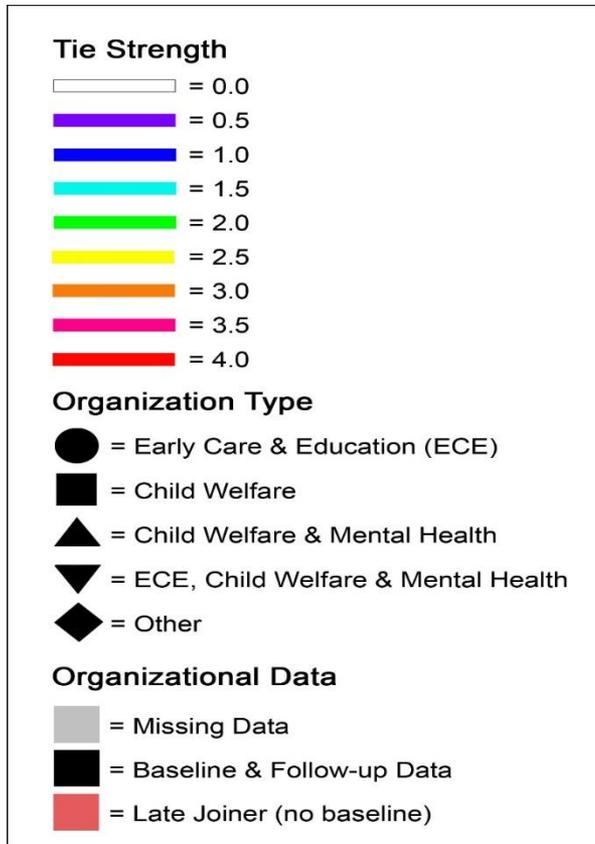
By cataloguing and storing the information in this system, we will be able to track, in real time, how many children are already enrolled in various programs, how many have been referred to Early Education, and how many parents and caregivers have elected to decline service. This concept represents an important first step in development of a system that could be used for numerous other Early Education Programs to enroll children. This system also represents the continuation of a strong collaboration with Early Education and will open many more opportunities for information sharing with the various Early Education programs throughout Los Angeles.

LBCWEEP

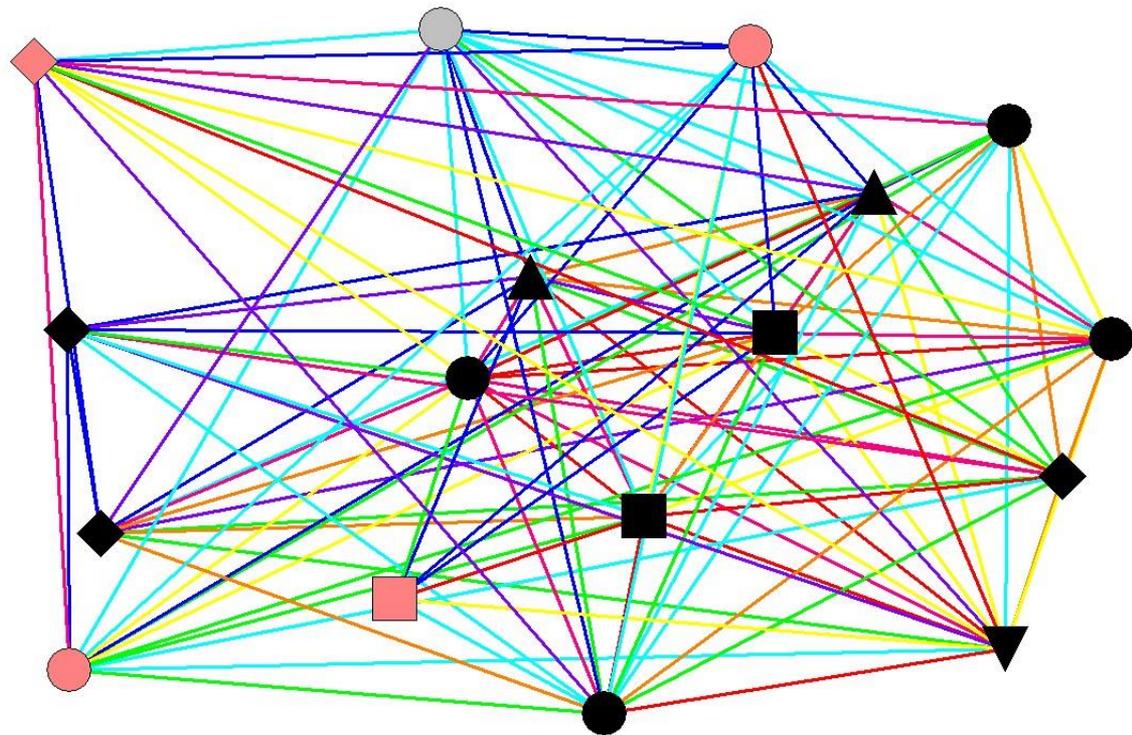
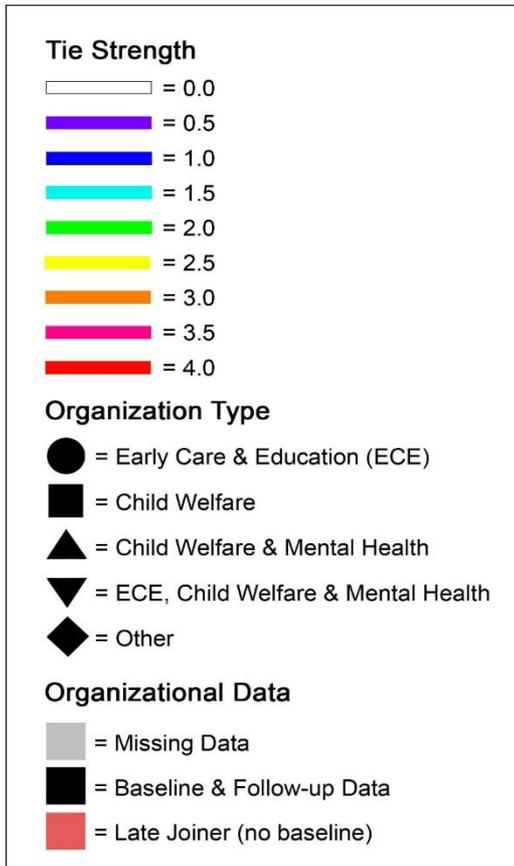
Outcomes

What We Accomplished

Baseline Sociogram PARTNERSHIP QUALITY (Original 13 Organizations)



Follow-Up Sociogram PARTNERSHIP QUALITY (Final 17 Organizations)



Collaboration Outcomes

- LB-CWEEP **strengthened collaborative relationships** and improved service coordination among CW, ECE & other early childhood systems in Long Beach as indicated by the **increased density of partnership ties between the 17 organizations on the LB-CWEEP Advisory Committee.**
- These ties represent the extent to which agencies reported **sharing information, exchanging client referrals, sharing staff, space & other resources,** and/or **pooling funds** when the Committee first began meeting (baseline) and one year later.

ECE Referral & Enrollment Outcomes

- There was an 88% ↑ ECE referrals for Long Beach 3-4 year olds in the CW system during Yr 1 of the grant (compared to the previous year) & more in Yr 2
- 135 children in the target population (41%) were enrolled/waitlisted in ECE
- An additional 82 children were referred during final month of the grant (many of whom are now enrolled)

Training Outcomes

- According to pre/post-training surveys, the trainings significantly ↑ participants' knowledge re:
 - (a) the benefits of high quality ECE for CW population,
 - (b) barriers to this population accessing ECE &
 - (c) how to navigate systems to access ECE for this population.
- Trainees assessed their competency in each of these 3 core learning objectives significantly higher after completing the training; and also correctly answered significantly more of the objective training knowledge-based test questions after completing the training.

Conclusions

- **Convening a collaborative** body of local CW, ECE, mental health & other family support organizations charged with shared responsibility for increasing access to high quality ECE for children in the CWS can strength partnerships & increase service coordination.
- Standardized **training** can be an effective way to increase ECE, CW & Court professionals' knowledge about ECE for children in the CWS, but may be less optimal for educating parents/caregivers.
- **Infrastructure building** approaches like CB-CWEEP can increase the referral & enrollment of maltreated children in high quality ECE.