

# **Partnering for Early Childhood Mental Health Services: Comprehensive Mental Health in Child Care Model**

**Kathy Betts**

Children Youth and Families, Executive Office of  
Health and Human Services

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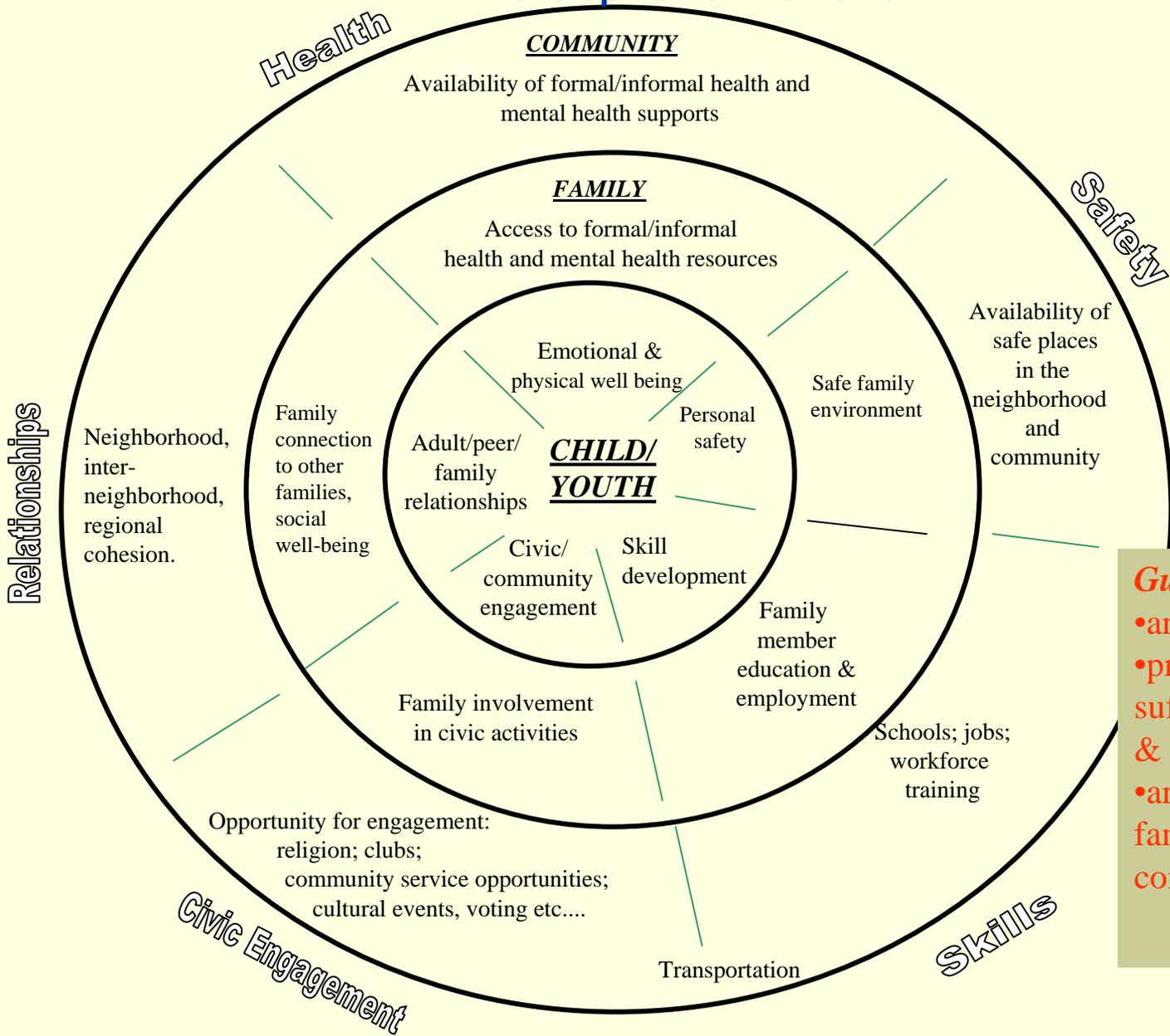
# Why Comprehensive Mental Health in Child Care Program Was Created

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- More young children are experiencing behavioral health issues.
- Families are asked to remove their child from care because programs can't successfully address children's behavior issues.
- Child care staff are often not trained to deal with challenging behaviors.
- Early Intervention is very effective.



# EOHHS Office of Children, Youth and Families: Moving to Self Sufficiency. Developmental Framework



**Guiding Principles**

- are strength based
- promote self sufficiency & independence
- are child focused, family driven and community based.

# Funding Streams

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## **Department of Early Education and Child Care**

- Pays 60% of the salary of the full time clinician
- Salary of the clinician is negotiated with the MH agency based on identified needs of the child care center
- Supports non-covered services like classroom observations, consultation and training for teachers and staff at the child care center and for the family.

## **Mass/Health**

- Provides reimbursement for treatment (encourages family treatment)
- Requires contact with the family (best practice-behavioral plan shared by parents and child care staff)
- Provides reimbursement for collateral services and consultation services

## **Private Insurance**

- Provides reimbursement for treatment

# Program Goals

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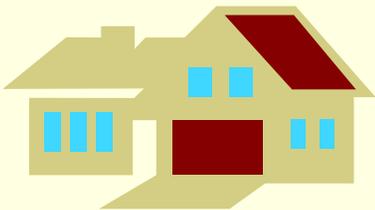
- Help children achieve the best social, emotional and academic development  
***and help children with behavioral issues succeed in child care.***
- Prevent reoccurrence of mental health episodes that require hospitalization  
***and reduce hospitalization costs.***
- Train child care staff to better understand why children from stressed families behave as they do  
***and improve the quality of child care programming.***

# There Are A Variety Of Program Models In Place

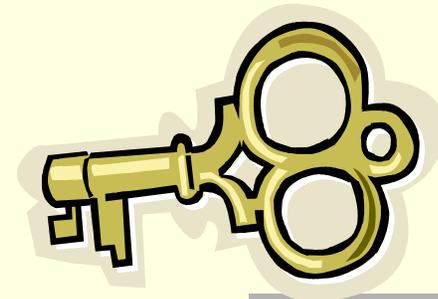
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The comprehensive mental health pilots are in a variety of settings:

- Family Child Care
- Group Child Care
- School Age Child Care



# The Clinician Holds The Key!



## Together, Hire A Clinician

**Child Care**

- Who is housed at child care;
- Receives supervision through the clinic
- Whose salary is 2/3 funded by EEC for non-billable clinical services
- Bills for direct therapeutic services through the clinic for 1/3 of the salary and more!

**Mental  
Health  
Clinic**

# How Does It Work?

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Because the clinician is considered child care staff, the clinician can:

- make unobtrusive observations of children in their natural setting;
- provide therapy in a non-threatening atmosphere;
- train child care staff;
- develop relationships with families in a setting they already trust; and,
- provide needed care coordination.



# Functional Impairment/Clinical Diagnosis

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- Functional impairment
- Diagnosis coding
- Family strength important
- Holistic/family and community approach
- Basic needs met (Maslow)

# Outcomes

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## ■ Families Say:

*“My child is learning to get along with others. He has had some difficulties and the staff have been wonderful.”*

## ■ Programs Say:

*“Our clinician has been key in assisting our families and teaching staff to work together cohesively to provide the best care to our children and families.”*

## ■ Clinicians Say:

*“. . . the program allows for the flexibility needed when working with children in today’s complex world.”*

# Contact Information

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## ■ Kathy Betts

Deputy Assistant Secretary, CYF

600 Washington Street, 4th floor

Boston, Mass. 02111

Phone 617 348-8492

Email: [Kathleen.Betts@state.ma.us](mailto:Kathleen.Betts@state.ma.us)