

## **Breakout Session Notes:**

### **Healthy Babies & Safe, Nurtured Children: Ensuring Strong Early Foundation for Success**

#### **A. Highlights/Themes**

1. Continued and additional resources are needed for programs.
2. Advocacy and communication needed to help parents become advocates and gain access to childcare and other resources (services to assist with trauma, homelessness, domestic violence, financial stability, substance abuse, etc.).
3. Programs need to collaborate.
4. Public awareness needed regarding early childhood wellness and maternal depression.

#### **B. Notes from Session (Includes Flip Chart Notes)**

- Need to connect pregnant moms at homeless shelters with services (e.g. Las Cumbres + La Familia Medical Center)
- Increase outreach to homeless pregnant women
- Can we include “pregnant question” on homeless shelter intake form (e.g. Pete’s & other places); Big databases don’t include this?
- Early neglect of parent when they were children causes trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE); Use assessment to identify trauma, ACEs, maternal depression
- How do we break the cycle? Use ACE scores to show connection between early childhood trauma and adult/parent poor physical and mental health, substance abuse, disease
- Funders can ask programs to use common assessment tools to identify trauma and referrals
- Public awareness needed regarding early childhood wellness and maternal depression
- Challenge is finding money for promotion and finding desire to spend the money on promotion
- How do we increase collaboration and promote/fund collaboration? Make it visible and make it a focal point
- There is too much siloed work in New Mexico that limits and excludes and there seems like there is a better way to serve our clients and get better outcomes
- Major issue: babies and families at risk of poverty and overwhelming cost of quality childcare
- How do we support families who do not qualify for services?
- Need to bring all voices to the table (e.g. parents with disabilities such as learning disabilities, brain trauma or injury, parents with alcohol and substance abuse issues, and parents with language barriers as well as immigration and refugee issues)
- Innovation and good news: new CYFD “data scholars” program will help staff understand and use data to inform best practices; program will be expanded to the community
- How do we support families/parents who lose their job because of medical treatment for babies?
- Empower parents to be advocates themselves. Moving from “pointing fingers” to holding hands
- Role/voice of policy: need to create Early Childhood champions
- Role of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – have resources and are obligated to reduce costs
- Writing prescriptions for childcare! ... to bring to the Roundhouse
- Need for flexible funding for rent vouchers, childcare
- Need to support moms in needs as they move into greater independence and recovery to eliminate “cliff effect”

