Practices to create an integrated system of care for children and their families

Kate Freiberg

Griffith University

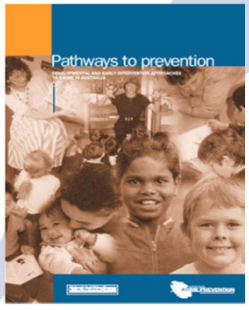
Blue Mountains Stronger Families Alliance
Positive Frameworks for Social Change Forum
Katoomba August 12th 2014

Pathways to Prevention project

Pathways work included:

- Partnerships
- Programs
- Research Base
- Measurement and Evaluation
- Learning organisation

Pathways through Time



Pathways to Prevention project

Developmental Prevention

- Understand risk and protective factors
- work across multiple developmental contexts
- comprehensive strategies within life-course perspective
- multiple mechanisms shape developmental pathways
- getting in early rather than waiting to fix problems after they emerge

Prevention – the challenge

Systems Overwhelmed

- By age 18, one in 4.2 children in Queensland (1 in 1.6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children) are “known to child protection”
- In NSW it is one in 3 children
- In Victoria it is projected that it will be one in 4 for children born in 2011

(Professor Dorothy Scott, AIFS Conference 2014)

Parental characteristics of children in out-of-home care, 2007

Parental substance abuse	69.4%
Domestic Violence	65.2%
Parental mental health problems	62.6%

Delfabbro, Kettler, McCormick & Fernandez (2012), The nature and predictors of reunification in Australian out-of-home care, AIFS Conference, Melbourne.

Dorothy Scott AIFS, 2014

Prioritise Prevention: Leadership

Leadership for Prevention

- Long-range vision
- Communicate and motivate vision (shared aspirations and collective thinking)
- Credibility not credit
- Understand complexity and help others understand the greater system they are part of
- Have the power to facilitate change at many levels

Holistic Development

Pathways Family & School Support Activities

2002+ 2005+

Programs typical of community services sector

Individual Support
Counselling
Therapy
Family Mediation
Intensive Parenting / Home Visiting
Advocacy
Emergency Relief
School Liaison

Parent Support Groups
Supporting children's school success
Lifeskills
Healthy lifestyle
Craft
General support

Early Childhood Initiatives
Playgroups
Sing and Grow
SKiLLS

Parent Education
Effective parenting and behaviour management

Child Support Program
Personal Development programs
Recreational programs

Community Liaison
Festivals
Meetings

Linking to Learn & Learning to Link
Strengthening home-school relationships for united supported for children's success

Circles of Care
Strengthening integrated model of support for children's positive development

Family Literacy Program
Comprehensive approach to supporting literacy development

Programs designed by university team but implemented by schools & service agency

Each Pathways family participates in their own way:

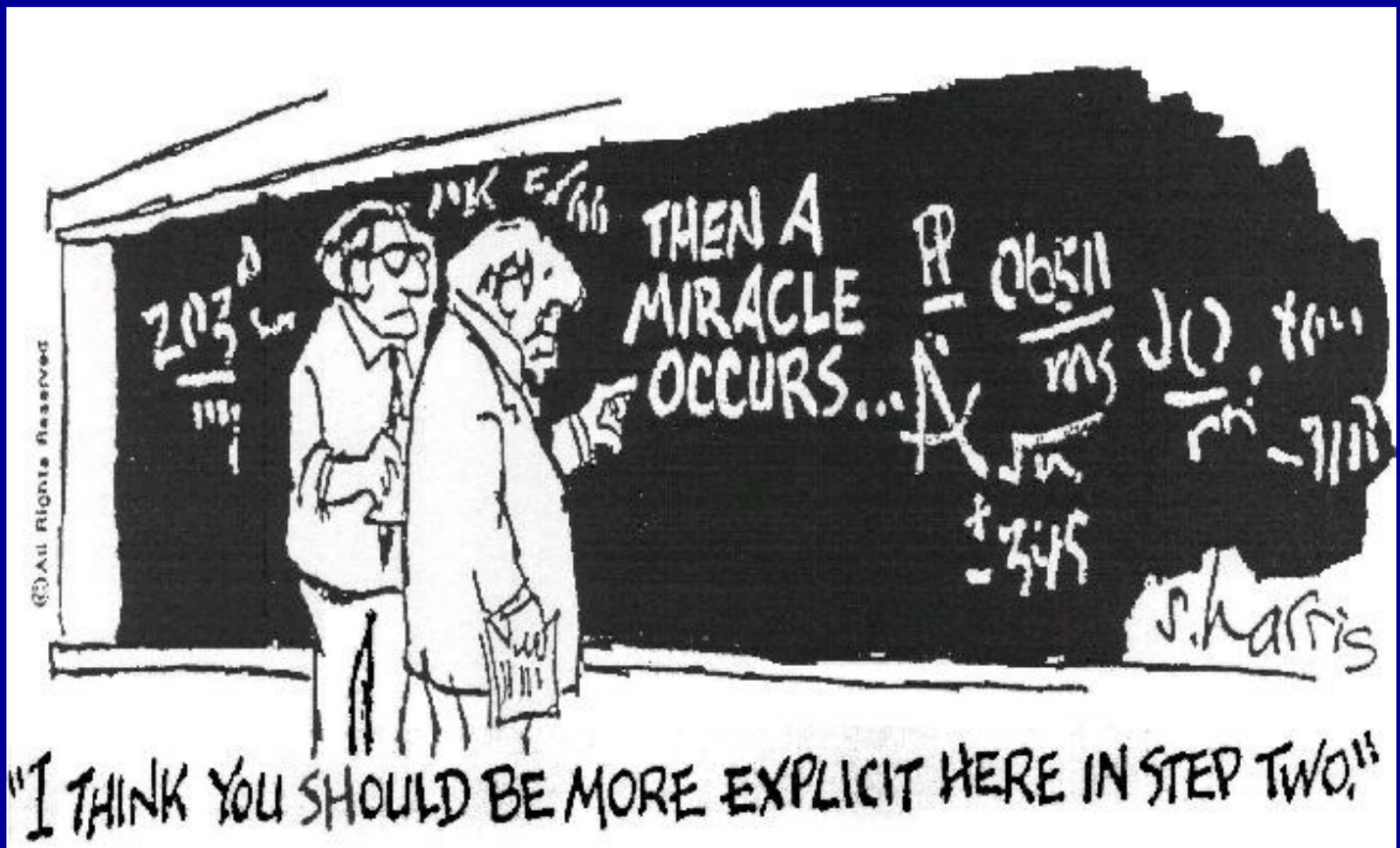
- Vary x type of programs used
- Vary x which family members get involved
- Vary x intensity and duration of contact

Positive outcomes

- Classroom behaviour
- Social and emotional wellbeing
- School readiness
- Achievement and skills for learning
- Parent Efficacy

Better lives for children in disadvantaged communities
Collaborative:
development is multifaceted, demanding that system silos be transcended through a comprehensive and integrated approach based on good governance
Relationships-driven:
program delivery requires community engagement and trust built on connections between organisations and relationships between people
Early in the pathway:
primary prevention by getting in early before problems emerge or become entrenched, with targeted programs embedded in a universal framework
Accountable:
a clear focus on measurable outcomes and shared responsibility for clearly articulated goals
Training focused:
empowerment of the workforce through continuous skills development and building the efficacy of parents to achieve their own goals for their children
Evidence-based:
programs and services have clear evidence for their effectiveness and are able to be implemented with integrity
GOOD GOVERNANCE
EMPOWERMENT
Stronger Developmental System

CREATE	COLLECTIVE IMPACT
Collaborative	Common Agenda Mutually Reinforcing Activities
Relationship-Driven	Continuous Communication
Early in Pathway	
Accountable	Shared Measurement
Training-focused	Backbone Support
Evidence-based	


THEN A MIRACLE OCCURS...
S. Harris
"I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE EXPLICIT HERE IN STEP TWO."

COLLABORATION
PRODUCTION
SUCCESS
KNOWLEDGE
LEARNING
SECTION
BASED
INDUSTRY
COMMUNICATION
TERM
TOGETH
SKILLS
COMMUNITY
ADDING
CHALLENGED
PEER
BENEFITS
SOURCES
IDEAS
UNITED
SHARING
RESOURCES
THEORY
INTEREST
MANAGEMENT
GROUPS
WORK
PROJECT
PROJECTS
COMPLEX
LEADERSHIP
CORPORATION
SOFTWARE
POLITICAL
PEOPLE
GROUP
COLLABORATIVE
BETWEEN
DEVELOPMENT
PRACTICE
INTERNET
TOOLS
HELP
TRADE
COMMUNITIES
IMPROVE
CITATIONS
SOCIAL
ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANIZATION
INCLUDE
RELIABLE
MEMBERS
SHARED
INTERNATIONAL

Capacity Building

Prevention Support System

Electronic Resource Platform

Collaboration Manager

helps local coalitions achieve their aims to:

(a) *take collective action around the specific goals that each community identifies as priorities from data;*

(b) *reform the way the developmental system within those communities is activated to address those priorities*

The Collaboration Manager Will:

On-Line Resources

Develop a Learning Culture

- Learn by doing
- Learn more by critically analysing what we do: this informs change for continuous improvement

SMALL STEPS
BIG CHANGES