

# Victim Voice and Intersectionality: New Opportunities for Collaboration

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# Overview

- ▶ History of VAW movement
- ▶ Discuss
  - ▶ Victim voice and radical listening
  - ▶ Intersectionality as a process model
  - ▶ Coordinated Community Responses (CCRs)
- ▶ Collaborations to identify
  - ▶ novel program models,
  - ▶ delivery modalities, and
  - ▶ community ownership strategies to re-engage victims directly to identify their priorities

# Brief History: VAW Movement



## Grassroots:

- Advocacy
- Victim voice
- Shelters



**VAWA**



## Formal Systems:

- CCRs
- CJRs
- Specific populations

# Defining terms

- ▶ Victim Voice and Radical Listening
- ▶ Radical Listening
- ▶ Intersectionality
- ▶ Coordinated Community Responses

# Victim Voice

- ▶ **IS:** expressions of needs, priorities, and goals directly from diverse victims including those who do and do not seek services
- ▶ **IS NOT:** filtered through the perceptions of service providers, especially if derived from service seeking victims alone
- ▶ **IMPLIES:** Victims have a seat at the table

# Radical Listening

- ▶ Radical listening—Receiving input without judgment, especially when challenging to preconceptions and shift in power
- ▶ Cultural humility—what can I learn from you?

# And if we listen, we might hear

- ▶ Traditional VAW services are lower priority than increasing structural resources
- ▶ Criminal justice options do not meet victims' goals
- ▶ Services seen as not what is wanted, not worth it, or culturally ill-fitting
- ▶ Healing and healers are not confined to professionals
- ▶ Convenience is more highly valued than specialization
- ▶ Gen Y and Gen Z preferences differ from 1990s

# Intersectionality

- ▶ The interconnected nature of social categorizations
- ▶ Theory of how different forms of discrimination interact (Crenshaw)
- ▶ Model for addressing complexity of oppression and privilege (Ramsay)
- ▶ Framework / process for social justice:
  - ▶ Sheds lights on the systemic roots of oppression and privilege for marginalized groups,
  - ▶ Addresses the sociocultural basis of privilege and oppression,
  - ▶ Serves as a model for coalition-building



# Intersectionality focuses attention on structural inequality

- ▶ Poverty and unemployment
- ▶ Dangerous neighborhoods
- ▶ Poor schools/low education
- ▶ High violence exposure & childhood adversity
- ▶ Policing issues & high incarceration
- ▶ Hopelessness, powerlessness, isolation

# Coordinated Community Responses

- ▶ Partnerships between health, police, judicial and legal services, shelters and protection services, schools and other education institutions, religious or cultural groups, and others
  - ▶ As a strategy to ensure survivors of violence, their children and other dependents receive the comprehensive support they need in a timely and sensitive manner
- ▶ The equivalent of employing a multi-sectoral approach at the local level\*
- ▶ Involve cross-training, policies, procedures, & practices
- ▶ Based on strong linkages between different sectors
- ▶ Focus on process and impact
- ▶ Look at all levels of the social ecology

\* From the United Nations Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls

# A way forward through collaboration

- ▶ Embrace intersectionality



- ▶ Appreciate role of cultural context



- ▶ Value victim/survivor voice

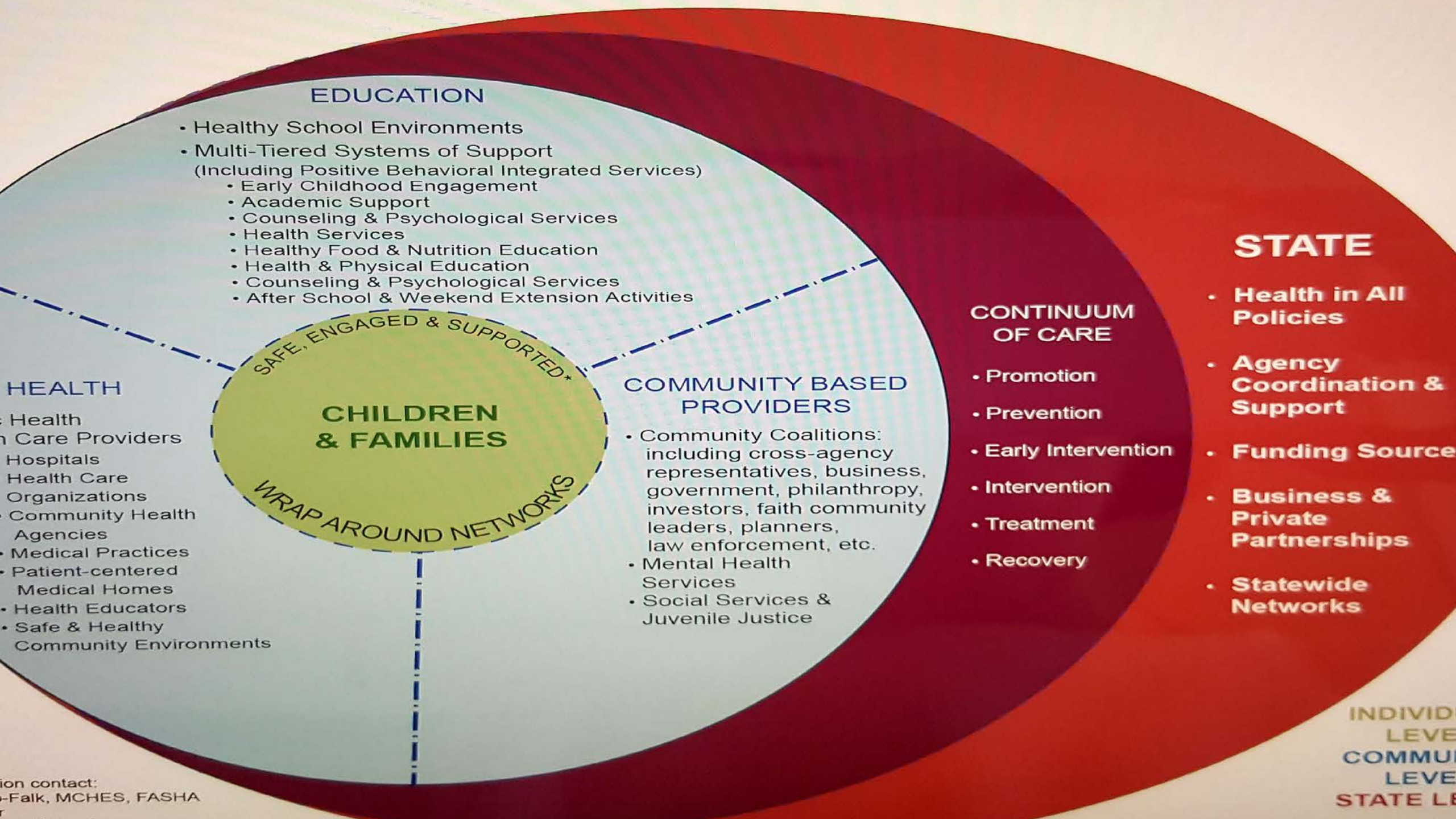


# Coalitions & Coordinated Community Responses can improve focus on

- ▶ Role of Context
- ▶ Indices of Success



Culturally Appropriate Services



## EDUCATION

- Healthy School Environments
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support  
(Including Positive Behavioral Integrated Services)
  - Early Childhood Engagement
  - Academic Support
  - Counseling & Psychological Services
  - Health Services
  - Healthy Food & Nutrition Education
  - Health & Physical Education
  - Counseling & Psychological Services
  - After School & Weekend Extension Activities

SAFE, ENGAGED & SUPPORTED\*

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

WRAP AROUND NETWORKS

## COMMUNITY BASED PROVIDERS

- Community Coalitions: including cross-agency representatives, business, government, philanthropy, investors, faith community leaders, planners, law enforcement, etc.
- Mental Health Services
- Social Services & Juvenile Justice

## HEALTH

- Health Care Providers
- Hospitals
- Health Care Organizations
- Community Health Agencies
- Medical Practices
- Patient-centered Medical Homes
- Health Educators
- Safe & Healthy Community Environments

## CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Promotion
- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Intervention
- Treatment
- Recovery

## STATE

- Health in All Policies
- Agency Coordination & Support
- Funding Sources
- Business & Private Partnerships
- Statewide Networks

INDIVIDUAL  
LEVEL  
COMMUNITY  
LEVEL  
STATE LEVEL

# CCRs depend on and provide for community readiness

## ▶ **Public Awareness, Outreach, and Prevention**

- ▶ general awareness and dissemination initiatives through public initiatives and social media
- ▶ primary prevention programs
- ▶ strategies for community engagement

## ▶ **Training**

- ▶ Mode of training
- ▶ TA services

## ▶ **Infrastructure and Organizational Capacity**

- ▶ Assess sustainability measures
- ▶ Assess organizational capacity including program management

# Delivering Culturally Appropriate Services

- ▶ Cultural awareness
  - ▶ Knowledge of a culture
  - ▶ Self-awareness
- ▶ Inter-cultural sensitivity
  - ▶ Interventions must have content that is welcoming, relevant, and not offensive to the population
- ▶ Inter-cultural competence
  - ▶ Appropriate approaches, skills, and techniques that reflect the role of culture
    - ▶ Goes beyond linguistic ability to communicate
- ▶ Cultural tailoring
- ▶ Cultural humility

# Summary: Principles of Collaboration\*

- ▶ Community as unit of identity
  - ▶ Strength-based approach
  - ▶ Collaborative, equitable partnerships at all phases (need to equalize power)
  - ▶ Co-learning and capacity building
  - ▶ Balance knowledge generation with action
  - ▶ Local relevance and ecological approaches
  - ▶ Systems development is cyclical, iterative
  - ▶ Disseminate progress and outcomes to all
  - ▶ Acknowledge a long term process that requires commitment
- ▶ \*From Israel, et al (2007)



# Summary: Principles of Collaboration\*

## Ongoing challenges

- ▶ Balancing expertise of all partners
- ▶ Maintaining staff competence and enthusiasm
- ▶ Obtaining, maintaining, and sharing resources

\*From Israel, et al (2007)

# Vison and Goals

- ▶ Nimbleness / flexibility / creativity
- ▶ Focus on victim voice
- ▶ Address intersectionalities and co-occurring problems
- ▶ Achieve justice by expanding concept of success beyond contact with criminal justice system and conviction
- ▶ Adopt survivor-focused, trauma-informed approach
- ▶ Strength-oriented approaches to connect with communities
  - ▶ Collaboration is key

# Summary

- ▶ Victims propelled the early anti-violence movement
- ▶ As formal systems evolved, victims became service users, not informants
- ▶ With return to victim input, innovations that stretch scarce resources and reach more victims will result
- ▶ Intersectionality as a process model
- ▶ Collaborations can identify novel program models, delivery modalities, and community ownership strategies to re-engage victims directly to identify their priorities

# Recap: Victim Voice, Radical Listening, Intersectionality to

- >determine needs
- >gain insight into success
- >build coalitions



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# Thank You

Questions?