

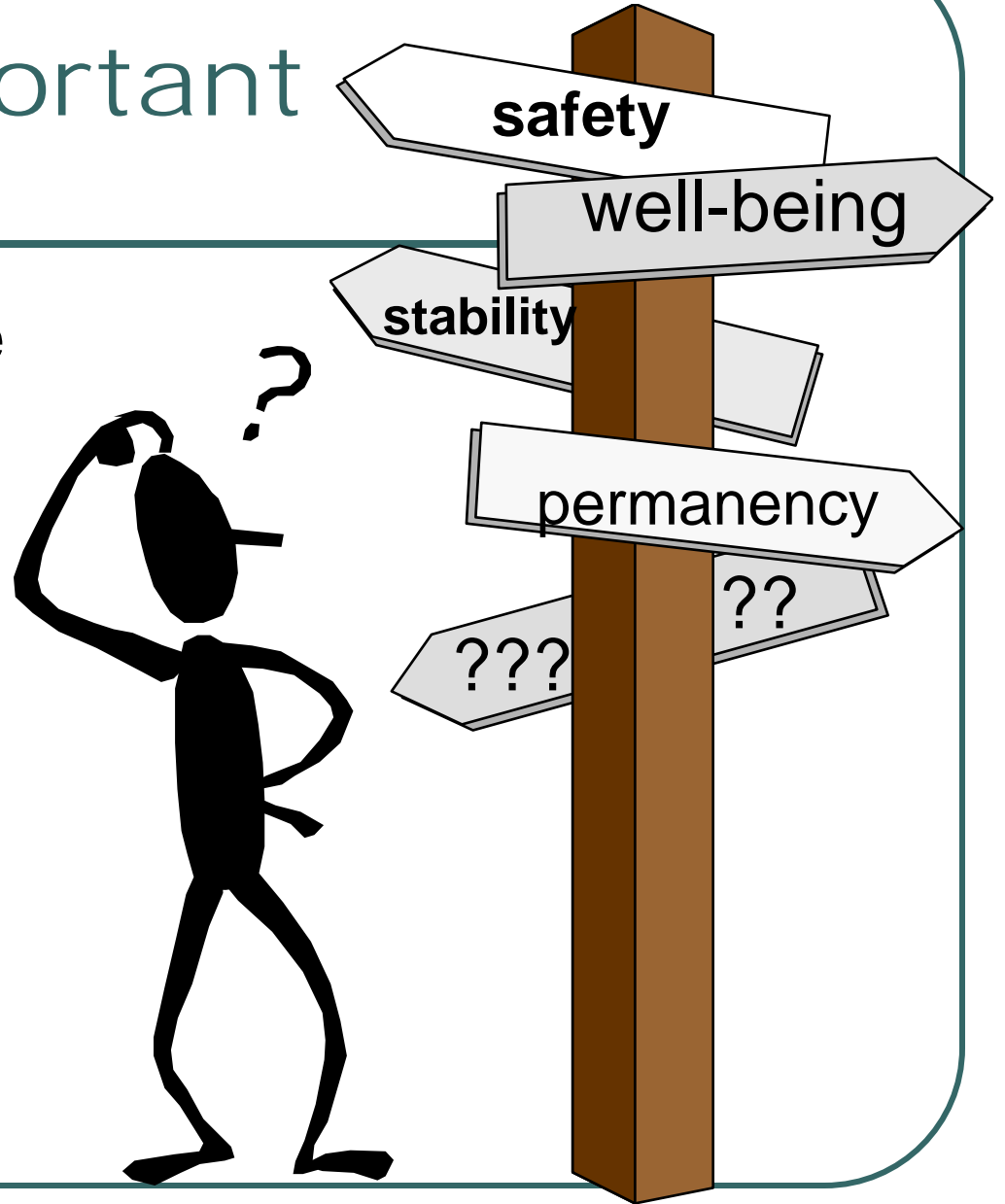
*Outcome-Based
Intervention to Reduce
the Risk of Neglect*

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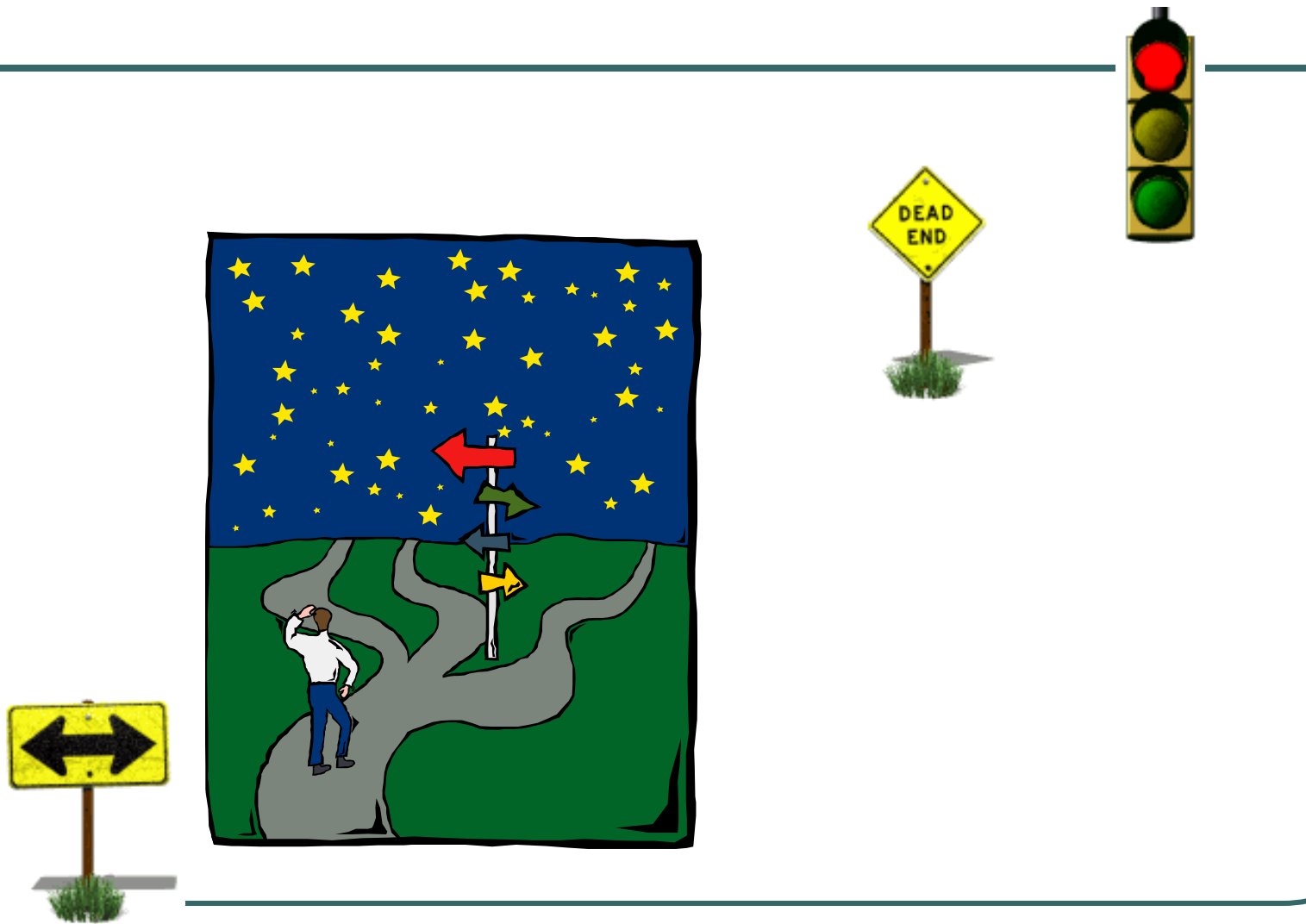
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Why is this important important?

- If we don't know where we are going, how will we know when we get there?



The direction we take will change the future. . .



Agenda

- Introductions
- Brief definitions
- Use of a logic model
- Risk and protective factors for neglect
- Using assessment information to target practice level outcomes
- Selecting interventions to achieve outcomes

Some consensus on child welfare *program* outcomes

- Child safety
- Permanency
- Child well-being
- Family well-being

Definition - Outcome

- The **RESULTS**, impacts, or accomplishments of human service programs as measured by quality-of-life changes in clients.

Difference between

- OUTPUT – **WHAT** the program provides (e.g., units of service – contact, time, or material units).
- OUTCOME – the **RESULTS** of what the program provides.

Transition

- Difference between the BIG picture (program outcomes) & family level outcomes

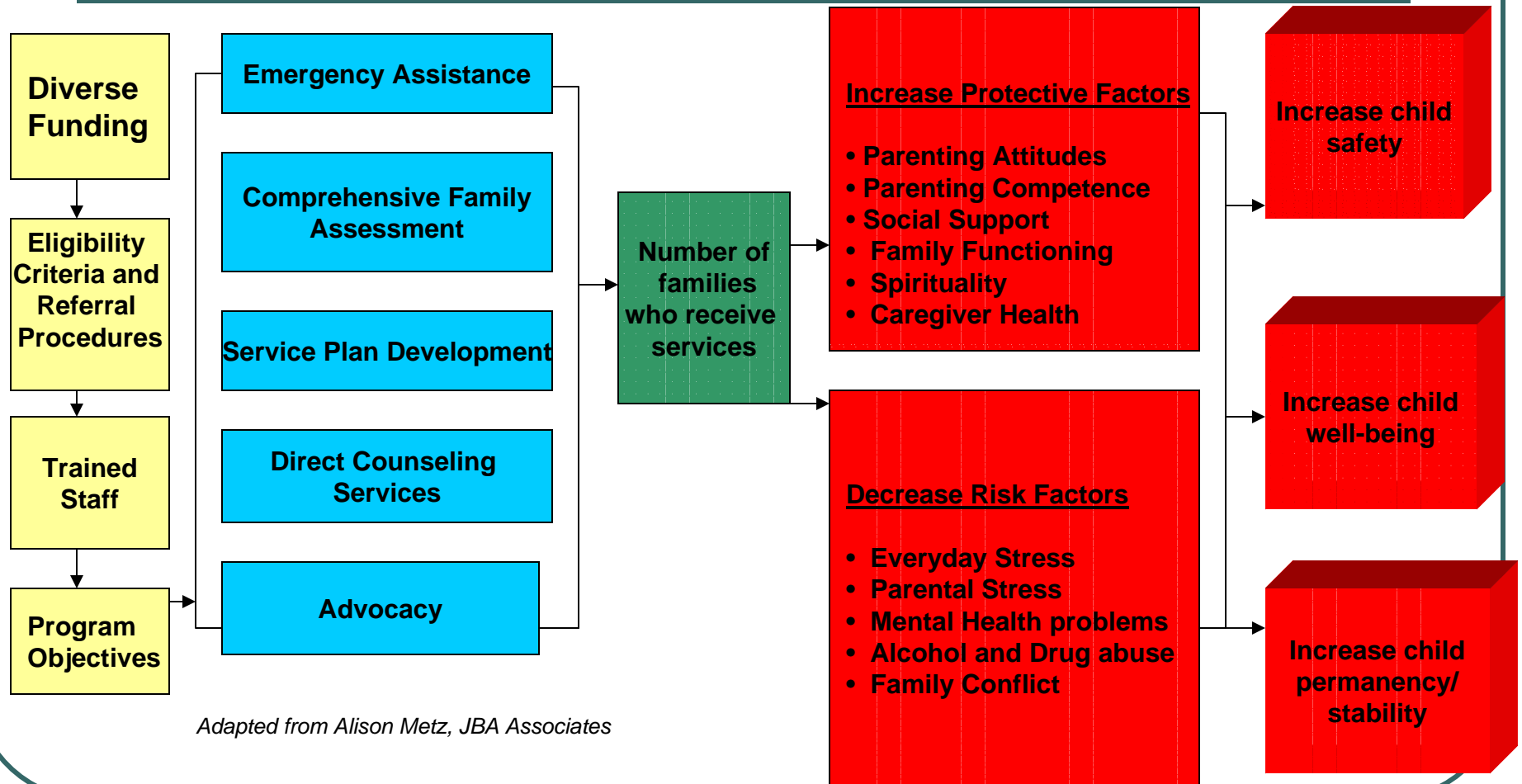


Program versus Client Level Outcomes

- **Program Outcomes**
 - Broad results that indicate success of a program.
 - Usually measured by numeric counts and by available data that can be easily aggregated.
- **Client level Outcomes**
 - Results that indicate success at the level of an individual child, caregiver, and/or family.
 - Usually measured by standardized self report or observational measures or level of functioning measures.

Using a Logic Model Can Help Make Connections

Inputs → Examples of Core Interventions/Activities → Outputs → Short-Term/Intermediate Outcomes → Long-Term Outcomes



Adapted from Alison Metz, JBA Associates

Definition: Risk factor

- *A measurable characteristic of individuals that heightens the probability of a worse outcome in the future for groups of individuals who share the risk factor or who have more of the risk variable than a comparison group who do not have the risk factor or have less of the risk variable (Masten & Wright, 1998, p. 10).*

Definition: Enduring risk factor

- *May be psychological, environmental, cultural, or biological factors that decrease or increase the odds for maltreatment (Thomlison, 1997, p. 53).*
- These factors are more likely to need change-oriented interventions in order to reduce the risk of maltreatment.

Definition: Transient risk factor

- *Situations such as illness, injury, marital discord, or other life stressors – both perceived and actual – that may impair a vulnerable parent and lead to abuse or neglect of a child (Thomlison, 1997, p. 53).*
- These factors may be controlled through safety oriented or short term interventions or through change oriented interventions to prevent recurring transient risk factors, e.g., frequent household evictions.

Definition: Risk management

- The implementation of interventions or change strategies that are targeted to achieve outcomes that will reduce the risk of child maltreatment.

Protective Factor

- *A correlate of resilience that may reflect preventive or ameliorative influences: a positive moderator of risk or adversity (Masten & Wright, 1998, p. 10).*

Examples of Risk Factors for Neglect

- Child: disability, prematurity, young age
- Parent: depression, alcohol & other drugs, low IQ, limited nurturing
- Family: DV, father uninvolved, many kids,
- Community: social isolation, violence, housing, neighborhood
- Society: poverty, lack of health insurance

Examples of Protective Factors

- Child: temperament, intelligence
- Parent: caring, intelligence, resourceful
- Family: supportive, father involved
- Community: resources, safe, playgrounds
- Society: food programs, health insurance

Assessment

- What factors contribute to neglect or mitigate risk?
 - Risk factors
 - Protective factors
- What needs to change to reduce the risk of neglect?
- What outcomes if achieved will reduce the risk of neglect?

Child & Family Assessment



- A time when we join with the family to understand their strengths and needs.
- This process helps us arrive at specific intervention outcomes and service plans that will empower families to strengthen their capacity to meet the basic needs of their children.

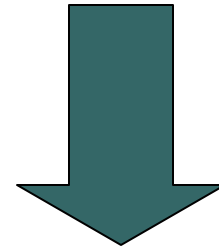
For example: Child & Family Assessment Decisions

- What are the most important risk and protective factors?
- What must change in order for the effects of child maltreatment to be addressed and for the risk of future child maltreatment to be reduced or eliminated?
- What specific outcomes (if achieved) will result in risk reduction?

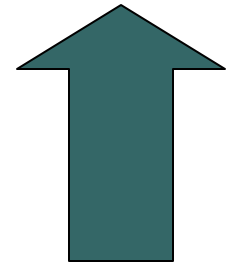
For Example

Risk Factors:

- Caregiver depressive symptoms
- Parenting stress
- Life stress

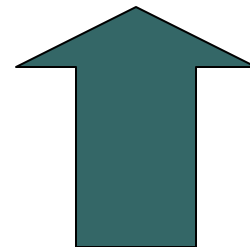


**Child
Safety**

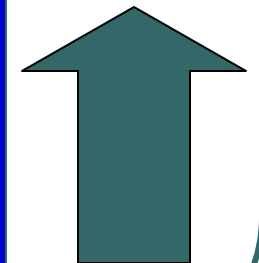


Protective Factors:

- Parenting attitudes
- Parenting competence
- Social support



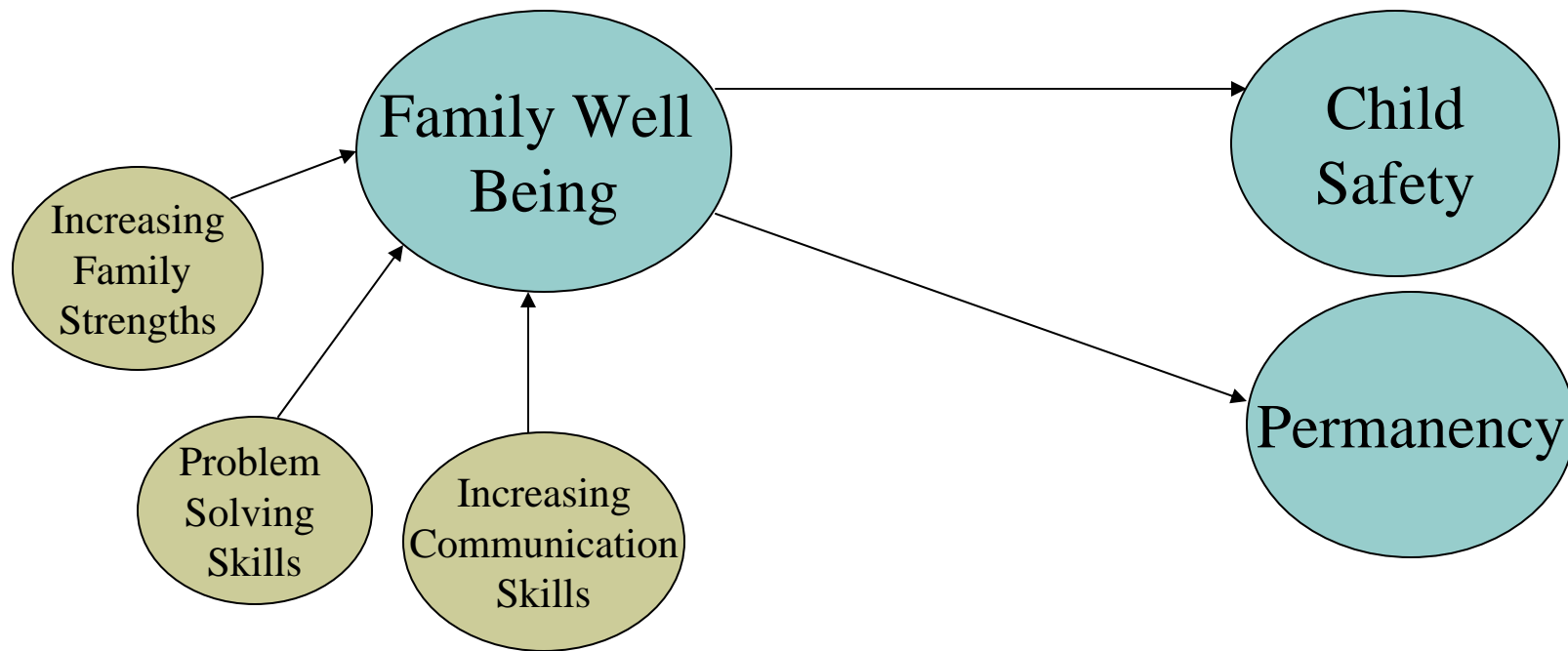
**Child
Well-
Being**



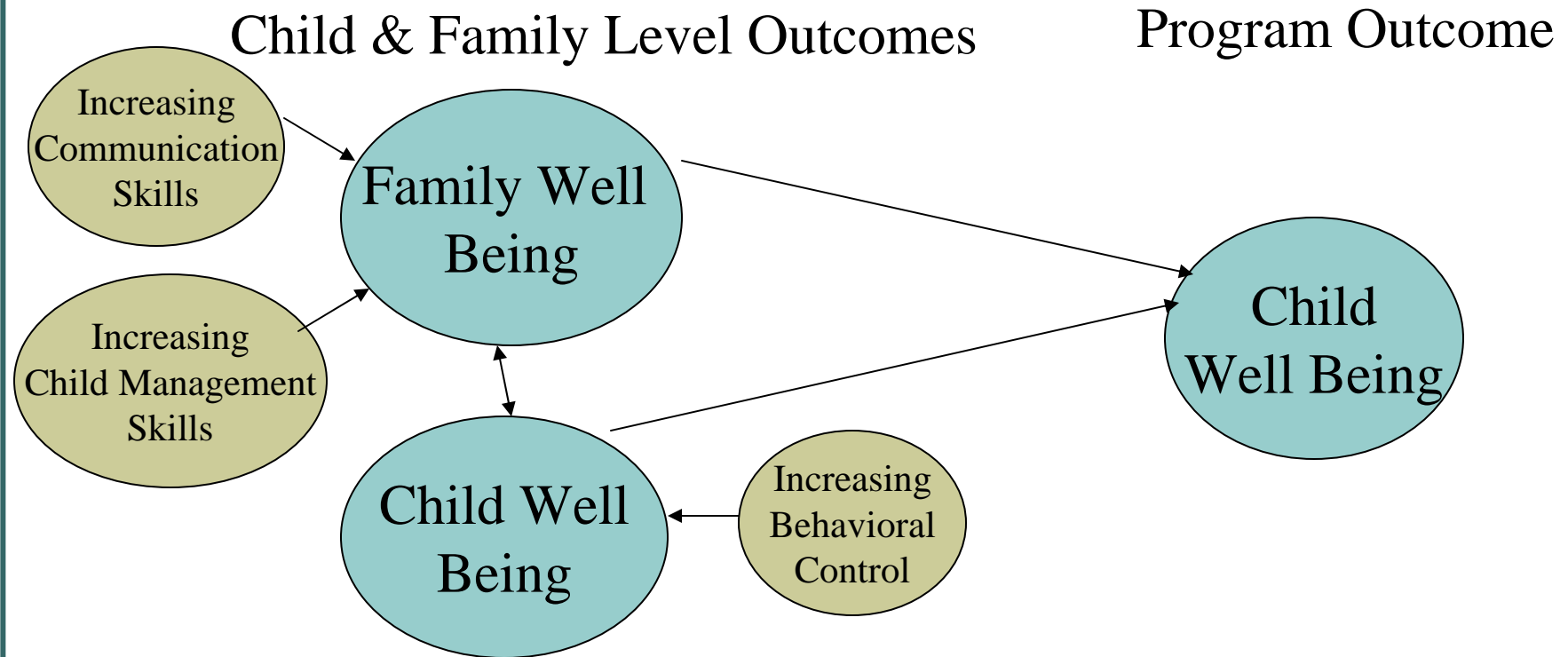
Example for a Family Preservation program

Family Level Outcomes

Program Outcomes



Example for a Mental Health Program Focused on Children



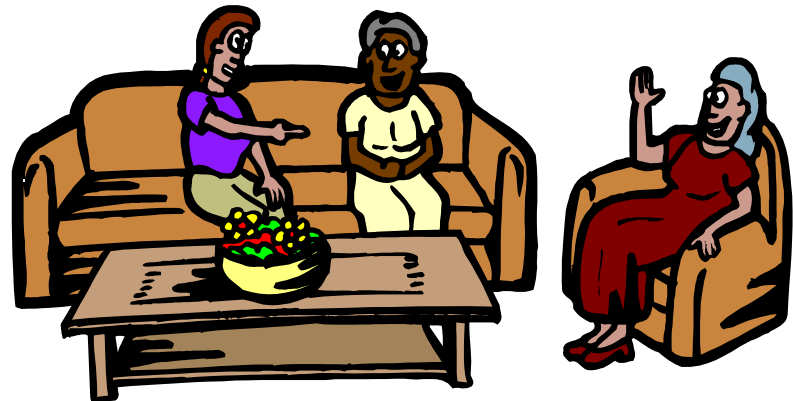
Review of Process for Targeting Client Level Outcomes

- Define key needs, risks, problems
- Define key outcomes and dimensions that are your primary focus
- Consider alternative measures as indicators of outcomes
- Select assessment measures
- Apply measures at beginning, intervals, and at closure

Imagine a client in your program

1. What are the key dimensions that need to change?

2. Match key needs, problems, risks, to client level outcomes



Sample Client Level Outcomes

- Risk/Problem
 - Condemned housing (e.g., no heat or running water, children diagnosed with lead poisoning, safety hazards for young children)
- Possible Client Level Outcomes
 - Household safety (child safety)
 - financial management skills (family well being)
 - problem solving skills (family well being)

Sample Client Level Outcomes

- Risk/Problem
 - Acting out behavior (e.g., refusing to listen, throwing temper tantrums, fights with peers)
- Possible Client Level Outcomes (child well being)
 - behavioral control
 - social skills
 - impulse control

Sample Client Level Outcomes

- Risk/Problem
 - Communication problems or conflict (e.g., domestic violence, parent/ child conflict)
- Possible Client Level Outcomes (Family Well Being)
 - conflict management skills
 - decision making skills
 - impulse control
 - family functioning

Sample Client Level Outcomes

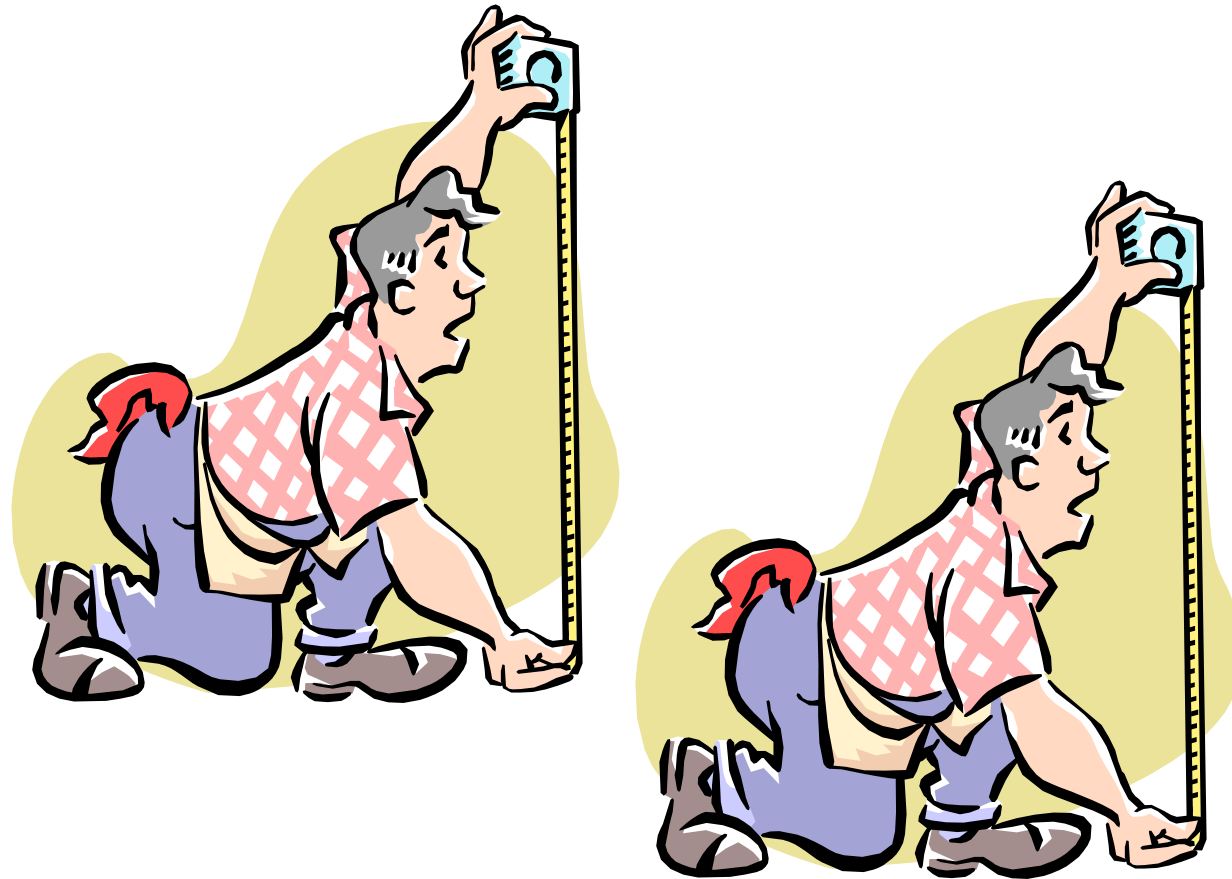
- Risk/Problem

- Frequent moves, in and out of placement, numerous schools, numerous caregivers, parental addiction

- Possible Client Level Outcomes

- Recovery from addiction (Family Well Being)
- Financial management (Family Well Being)
- Problem solving skills (Family Well Being)

Contrast of Measurement



Differences in Indicators

- Child Safety at Program level, Using numeric counts:
 - % without future reports of child abuse and neglect.
 - % without future substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.
- Standardized Measures that match dimensions of family well being
 - % of families with enhanced family functioning as measured on the Family Assessment Form (FAF)
 - % of parents with more realistic expectations of their children as measured by the AAPI

Differences in Indicators

- Child Well Being at Program level, Using numeric counts:
 - % of children who pass to the next grade.
 - % of children who graduate from high school.
 - % of children who have received no delinquent charges.
- Standardized Measures that match dimensions of child well-being
 - % of children with a decrease in externalizing behavior as measured by the CBCL - parent & teacher reports
 - % of children with decreased trauma symptoms as measured by the Trauma Symptom Checklist

Differences in Indicators

- **Family Well Being using numeric counts**

- % of families living in households with a telephone
- % of families with a primary caregiver that has full time, year round employment

- **Family Well being measured by self report:**

- % of families where severe violence as measured by the Conflict Tactics Scale is not present
- % of families with reduced stress as measured by the Daily Hassles scale

Differences in Indicators

- **Family Permanency & Stability measured by numeric counts:**
 - % of children who achieve permanency within 15 months.
 - % of children who are adopted within one year following termination of parental rights.
 - % of children who return home within 1 year of placement.
- **Child and Family Well measured by self report**
 - % of families rated with adequate bonds between parents and children as rated by the Parental Bonding Instrument
 - % of adopted children rated with normal attachment on the Inventory of Parent & Peer Attachment Scale

Criteria for Selecting Assessment Instruments

- Utility - relevance to stakeholders
- Validity - measures the right outcome
- Reliability - consistency of results
- Precision - level of measurement
- Feasibility & Cost - practicality of use, training, costs, amount of time, receptivity of staff and clients, helpful to intervention process, norms, scoring

Summary: Defining Outcomes at the Client Level

- Constructs within a broader outcome
- Could be focused on changes in attitudes, behavior, perceptions, conditions, mental health status, skills, functioning
- Related to program outcomes but more precise

Transition

Selecting and targeting interventions to facilitate the achievement of client level outcomes



Selecting Interventions to Achieve Outcomes

- Increase social support
- Possible interventions
 - parent aide
 - social support groups
 - social networking
 - cultural festivals
 - multi-family recreational activities
 - mentoring
 - other?

Selecting Interventions to Achieve Outcomes

- Enhance family functioning
- Possible interventions
 - home based family centered counseling
 - center based family therapy
 - nurturing family camps
 - other?

Selecting Interventions to Achieve Outcomes

- Your example:
- Possible Interventions:

Take home points

- Facilitating a clear understanding of needs and strengths can lead to the identification of specific outcomes
- Tailored and targeted interventions have more chance of success than “cookie cutter” one size fits all interventions

Questions & Comments?

