

# Helping Families Connect to Meet Their Children's Needs



Esta M. Glazer-Semmel, LCSW-C

Diane DePanfilis, PhD, MSW

Michelle Farr, LCSW-C

Family Connections

University of Maryland School of Social Work

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# Introductions



⌘ Who are we?

⌘ What are we going to talk about today?

⌘ Why is it important?

# Why is it important?



- ⌘ Child neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment reported to public child protective services agencies
- ⌘ Even though its consequences are equally, if not more damaging, we know less about the assessment and treatment of neglect than about other forms of child maltreatment

# What is most important?



⌘ To protect children and improve their well-being

⌘ NOT to blame parents

# Etiology of Neglect



- ⌘ Individual Factors
- ⌘ Family Factors
- ⌘ Community Factors
- ⌘ Cultural and Social Factors
- ⌘ Interaction Effects

# Prevention Models



⌘ Primary

⌘ Secondary

⌘ Tertiary

# A Neglect Prevention Model



## ⌘ Family Connections

- ☑ Many families struggle to meet the basic needs of their children
- ☑ Formal systems often get involved too late
- ☑ We need to understand what models can reach families early

# Guiding Principles



- ⌘ Helping Alliance and Partnership
- ⌘ Empowerment
- ⌘ Strengths Perspective
- ⌘ Cultural Competence
- ⌘ Community Involvement



# Basic Screening Criteria



- ⌘ There is no current Child Protective Services involvement
- ⌘ The family is willing to participate

# Neglect Risk



- ⌘ Inadequate/delayed health care
- ⌘ Inadequate nutrition
- ⌘ Poor personal hygiene
- ⌘ Inadequate clothing
- ⌘ Unsafe household conditions
- ⌘ Unsanitary household conditions
- ⌘ Unstable living conditions

# Neglect Risk (2)



- ⌘ Shuttling
- ⌘ Inadequate supervision
- ⌘ Inappropriate substitute caregiver
- ⌘ Drug exposed newborn
- ⌘ Inadequate nurturance
- ⌘ Isolating
- ⌘ Witnessing violence

# Neglect Risk (3)



- ⌘ Permitting alcohol/drug use
- ⌘ Permitting other maladaptive behavior
- ⌘ Delay in obtaining needed mental health care
- ⌘ Chronic truancy
- ⌘ Unmet special education needs

# Caregiver Risk



- ⌘ Unemployed/overemployed
- ⌘ Mental health problem
- ⌘ Alcohol or drug problem
- ⌘ Homelessness
- ⌘ Domestic violence

# Child Risk



- ⌘ Behavior or mental health problem
- ⌘ Physical disability
- ⌘ Developmental disability
- ⌘ More than 3 children in household
- ⌘ Learning disability

# Effective Helping



- ⌘ Is the “act of enabling individuals or groups (e.g., a family) to become better able to solve problems, meet needs, or achieve aspirations by promoting the acquisition of competencies that support and strengthen functioning in a way that permits a greater sense of individual or group control over its developmental course.”

# Intervention Principles



- ⌘ Outreach
- ⌘ Family focus
- ⌘ Tailored interventions
- ⌘ Developmentally appropriate
- ⌘ Multi-system
- ⌘ Outcome driven



# Theoretical Foundation



- ⌘ Psychosocial
- ⌘ Problem Solving
- ⌘ Life Model
- ⌘ Crisis
- ⌘ Systems
- ⌘ Behavior
- ⌘ Cognitive

# Intervention Outcomes



- ⌘ Family Maintenance and Safety
- ⌘ Family Member Functioning
- ⌘ Family Functioning
- ⌘ Problem Solving
- ⌘ Social Support
- ⌘ Care of Children

# Service Planning - Principles



- ⌘ Maximum involvement of family members in development
- ⌘ Short term, measurable, achievable goals (linked to outcomes) with positive feedback
- ⌘ Selection of interventions that help families achieve outcomes

# Intervention Strategies



- ⌘ Individual, conjoint, family, group, community
- ⌘ Service facilitation
  - ☑ Clinical perspective
  - ☑ Resources
- ⌘ Advocacy

# Selecting Interventions



- ⌘ Concrete resources
- ⌘ Social support
- ⌘ Developmental focus
- ⌘ Cognitive/behavioral
- ⌘ Individual focus
- ⌘ Family system focus

# Evaluation



- ⌘ Clinical Instruments
- ⌘ Research Instruments
- ⌘ Management  
Information System

# Clinical Instruments



## ⌘ Rationale

- ☑ Prove the efficacy of work
- ☑ Contribute to the empirical practice base

## ⌘ Measures

- ☑ Client driven
- ☑ Intern driven

# Research Protocols



- ⌘ Baseline, close of service, follow-up
- ⌘ Self-administered
- ⌘ Computer-assisted
- ⌘ Measure prevention of neglect, and enhancement of child, caregiver and family functioning



# MIS



- ⌘ Provide framework to learn a practice model
- ⌘ Support management and teaching needs
- ⌘ Document provision of service
- ⌘ Document and measure achievement of outcomes

# Marketing



- ⌘ Goals
- ⌘ Materials
- ⌘ Audience
- ⌘ External Factors
- ⌘ Alliances
- ⌘ Evaluation

# Finally...



⌘ Need for Flexibility

⌘ Personal vs. Professional Self

⌘ Taking Care of Ourselves

# Closing Thoughts



- ⌘ Celebrate successes
- ⌘ Confront challenges
- ⌘ Remember to car