



Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina™

Policy Updates

PCANC's Strategic Direction

Essentials for Childhood Steering Committee Meeting

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October 16, 2017



Policy Goals for Our State and Our Children

Policy Goals: Firmly Rooted in Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework



Policy Goals: Upstream Investments in Strong Families and Safe Children

Policy Goals	Essentials Alignment
<p>Make evidence-based parenting education programs available in all 100 counties in a continuum from prenatal to college.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Evidence-based parenting programs are proven to reduce abuse and neglect.Examples include: Incredible Years, Strengthening Families, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Triple P–Positive Parenting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendation 5.3: Support Implementation of Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent Child Maltreatment and Promote Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships and Environments
<p>Increase the capability to share data about child well-being with the implementation of NC FAST, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Leverage the collection of data on social norms around children and parenting to increase public awareness and inform investments in evidence-based programs that prevent child abuse and neglect; and,Foster collaboration across systems and programs including public health, social services, early childhood development, public education, and public safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GOAL 2: Use Data to Inform Actions
<p>Recommend all elementary, middle school, and high school teachers and counselors take the FREE Recognizing and Responding to Suspicions of Child Maltreatment (R&R) course, a self-guided two-hour online training that teaches citizens and professionals the signs of abuse and neglect, what to do when they suspect it is happening, NC’s reporting law, and what happens after a report is made.</p>	

Policy Goals: Upstream Investments (cont'd)

Policy Goals	Essentials Alignment
<p>Increase public awareness of ACEs, Protective Factors, Resilience and ways to support families and children to change social norms around parenting and change the culture of North Carolina so the state's overarching early childhood philosophy, policies, programs and practices utilize the latest brain science to prevent and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 5.1: Promote Positive Community Norms Around Child Development and Parenting
<p>Recommend that counties develop local Community Child Abuse Prevention Plans using the Protective Factors Framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 5.2: Foster Community Support for Healthy Children and Families
<p>Engage with business leaders about family friendly policies and programs in the workplace that support and strengthen families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 6.3: Ensure Economic Security for Children and Families
<p>Advocate for state investments in the North Carolina Children's Trust Fund (NCCFT). The NCCFT was created in 1983 with the sole purpose of preventing child abuse. Today, NCCTF generates revenue from marriage license fees, Kids First license plate fees, as well as required matching fees from CBO grant recipients.</p>	

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Policy Goal Drill-Down: Building Community Child Abuse Prevention Plans

Building Community Child Abuse Prevention Plans

Purpose

- To build safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children in every NC community to prevent abuse and neglect.
- Counties should develop and review their plan every five years to assess success and adapt strategies based on evaluation of their plans and evidence-based and proven practices.
- All plans should be informed by the CDC's Essentials for Childhood Framework.
- Our process is based on a collective impact approach.

Planning Team Members

- Must include leadership from Public Health, Social Services, Public Schools, early childhood development community, law enforcement, courts, child advocates, businesses, parents, medical community, and additional groups, as appropriate.
- Recommend that representation from Community Child Protection Teams (CCPTs) and Local Collaboratives be the core teams.
- It is vital that every effort be made to assure parents are full and equal members of the planning committee.

Building Community Child Abuse Prevention Plans (cont'd)



- **Complete 14 hour National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Fund training Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work** as well as as other training or education sessions as determined by community needs.
- **Host screenings of the documentary *Resilience: The Biology of Stress + The Science of Hope*** followed by facilitated discussions on ACEs
- **Host community café’s and/or parent café’s to assess the needs of the community** and raise awareness of prevention activities
- **Review local, state, and business policies** that support (or impede) family support to determine what can be done within existing policies and where advocacy may be needed for changes.

- **County level plans should address each of the five Protective Factors and should include, according to local strengths and resources, plans to educate and engage your community, and evidence-based/informed prevention programs.**
- **Plans are determined by the core committee** and should include goals around each of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors with strategies, agencies responsible, and timelines for implementation.

- **Must include a yearly review of indicators developed by a multi-disciplinary team identified during the planning process** (this can be an existing leadership group in your community).
- **An annual progress report should be presented to the Board of County Commissioners each spring in April as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month** (could also be done at a community breakfast or luncheon)

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Next Steps

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- Advocating for adoption of non-legislative policy goals at local level, e.g. requiring local school districts to take Recognizing and Responding to Suspicions of Child Maltreatment (R&R) course.



- Using the inaugural plan from Cumberland County as a potential model for other counties across the state (to be submitted to their County Commissioners in November). Halifax and New Hanover counties are also signed on to develop a plan for their communities.



- Continue to work with our Civic Engagement and Education Board Committee to operationalize our identified policy goals including buy-in of potential legislative initiatives.

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