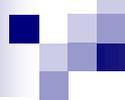


# Home Visiting in Virginia

NCCP/THRIVE Webinar  
December 2, 2008



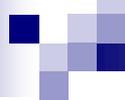
# Timeline of Governor's Early Childhood Initiatives

## 2005

- **Early Learning Council** initiative
- **Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF)** established

## 2006

- Governor Kaine's focus on Early Childhood as a Priority
- **Start Strong Council**
- **Governor's Working Group on EC Initiatives (GWG)** established



# Timeline of Governor's Early Childhood Initiatives

## 2007

- **Home Visiting Consortium** established
- **Virginia's Plan for Smart Beginnings** launched
  - Merged ECCS and other plans
  - Co-led by GWG (public) and VECF (private)

## 2008

- **Office of Early Childhood Development** created
  - Spans agencies
- Attendance at **Harvard Symposium**

# Agreements: Core Concepts of Early Childhood Development

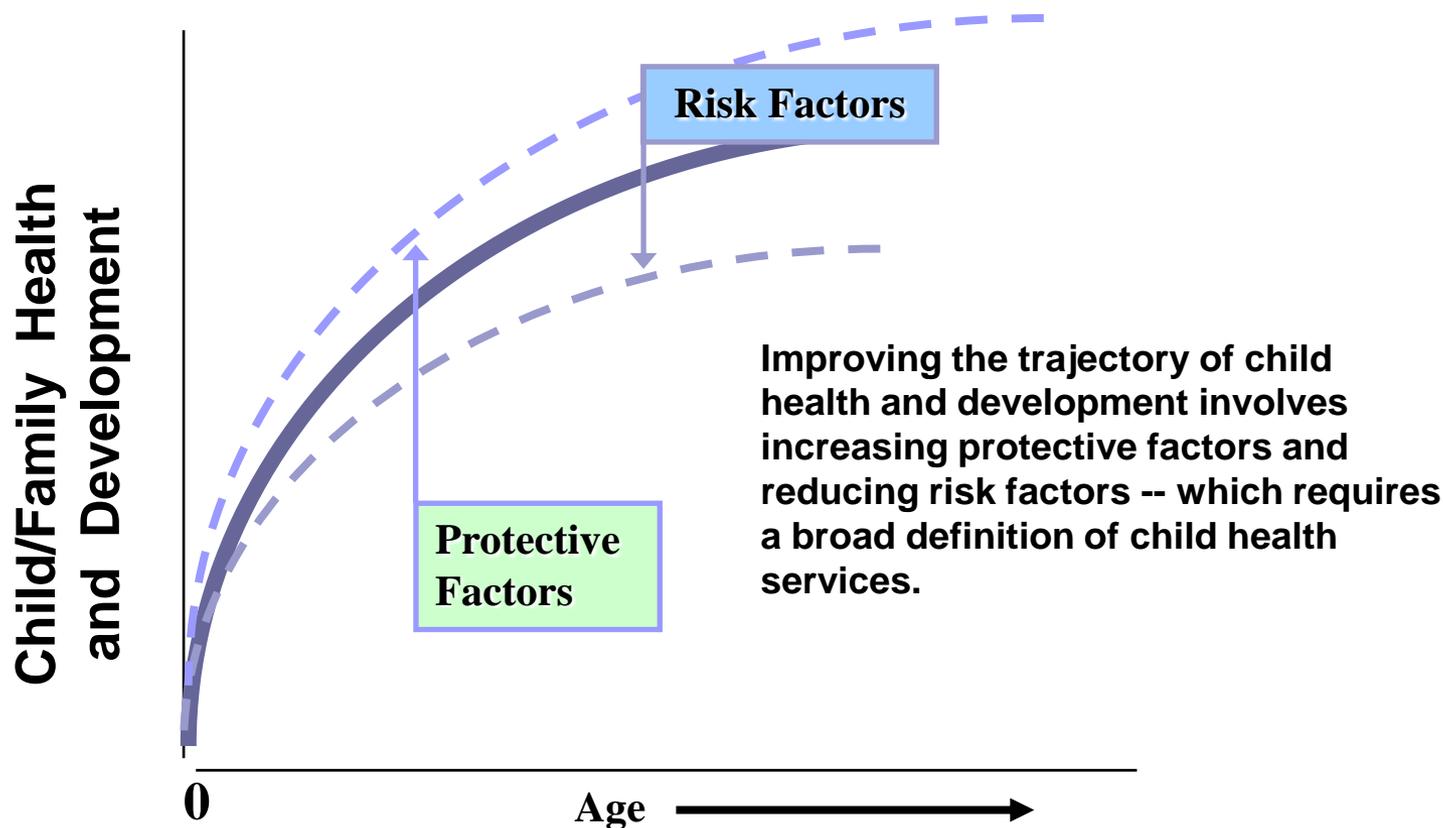
- *Early experiences affect brain development*
- *Nurturing relationships are essential*
- *Children's early development depends on the health and well-being of their parents*



Adapted: *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood*

# Agreements: Life Course Development

--Neal Halfon, Michael Lui, Dawn Misra



# Agreements: Standards and Practices

- *Milestones of Child Development*
- *Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals*
- *Quality Rating and Improvement System*
- *Public-Private Partnerships:  
Virginia's Plan for Smart Beginnings*



## Virginia's Plan For

### Smart Beginnings:

A collaborative initiative to build and sustain a system in Virginia to support parents and families as they prepare their children to arrive at kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed

#### Goal One: Governance and Financing

Virginia's early childhood initiative will engage all sectors and create and sustain state and local collaborative entities to secure public and private investments; develop and expand programs; and provide effective coordination, oversight and accountability for systemic services for young children.

#### Goal Two: Parent Support and Education

All families of children birth to five will have access to the information and supports they need to help them promote their child's optimal development and school readiness.

#### Goal Three: Early Care and Education

Virginia communities will support systems of accessible, high quality early care and education opportunities in a variety of settings, for all children birth to age five, whose parents choose to enroll them.

#### Goal Four: Health

All families of children birth to age five will have access to a full range of physical, behavioral, and dental health prevention and treatment services, as well as appropriate nutrition, to ensure their children are healthy and well-nourished.

#### Goal Five: Public Engagement

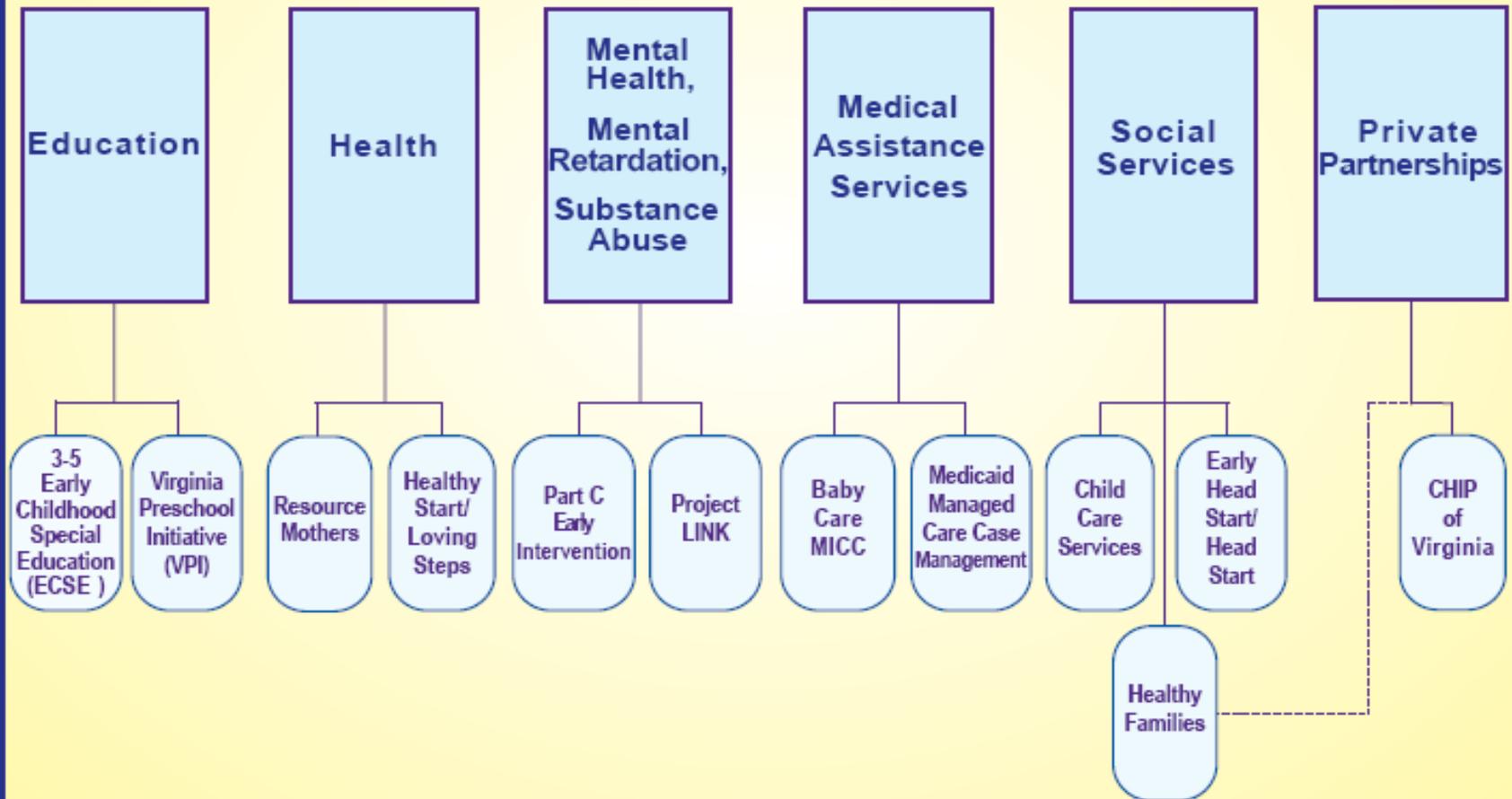
Virginia residents, communities, institutions and leaders will recognize the importance of early childhood and act to support policies and investments promoting a Smart Beginning for all children.

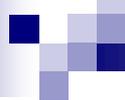


# Home Visiting Initiative

- Early Childhood Team attended CLASP / Zero to Three meeting in Chicago fall of 2006
- Convened home visiting program representatives in December 2006 with charge of “improving efficiency and effectiveness of home visiting programs receiving state funds”
- Reporting to the Governor’s Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives and Partner in Virginia’s Plan for Smart Beginnings

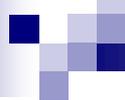
# Virginia's Home Visiting Programs By Lead Agency





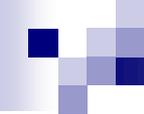
# **Early Agreements by Discussion Group**

- Build on investment in existing networks
- Include and honor local and state expertise
- Find new efficiencies (training, admin., PR)
- Decrease competition (duplication)
- Link with health and child care providers
- All children
- Statewide
- Support quality improvement



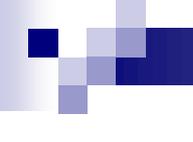
# Current System Inefficiencies

- Intake process repeated
- Definitions of “risk” and “success” different
- Standardized screening not done periodically
- Communication between HV programs missing
- Childcare and healthcare provider partnerships inconsistent
- Referral and transitioning not planned



# Current System Gaps

- Communities without services
- Groups not eligible for services
- Behavioral health services for parents
- Quality assurance methods
- NICU discharge planning
- System capacity to meet need
- State leadership structure

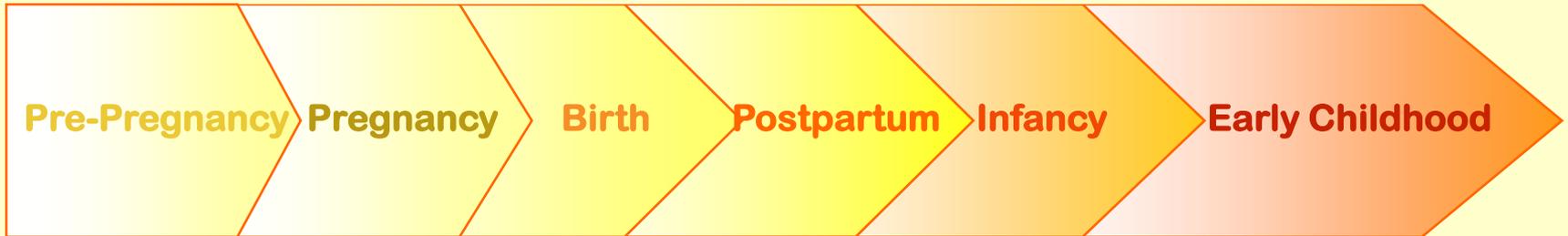


# **Agreements:**

## **Focus on System of Linkages for Families and Children**

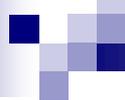
- o **Improve Referral Network**
- o **Increase Early, Appropriate Referrals to Early Intervention/Part C**
- o **Enhance Local Coalitions**
- o **Increase Staff Completing Core Training**
- o **Increase Inter-program Training**
- o **Decrease Child Abuse and Neglect Reports** (founded and repeated)

# A Maternal Child Health Continuum of Care



## *Continuum of Care (CoC)*

The delivery of sustained care over a period of time while streamlining and strengthening the current delivery system through collaborative planning and partnerships to ensure that the family is offered the services that best fit their needs.



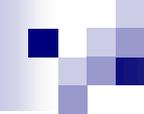
# Home Visiting Consortium Task Areas

- Infrastructure
  - State consortium
  - Local coalitions
- Common Training
- Standard Screening
- Common Data Collection and Evaluation
- Quality Improvement



# Features of Virginia's Home Visiting Continuum

- Leadership: benefits from visible commitment of Governor and dedication and expertise of program representatives
- Partnership: key element of Governor's Early Childhood Initiatives and Virginia's Plan for Smart Beginnings
- Governance: supports continuum and cross-cutting linkages
- Vision: universal, continuum, systems change
- Values: builds on shared agreements, recognition of strengths of diverse programs for diverse needs of families
- Linkages: facilitates connection across programs and interventions



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