Working Effectively Across Organizations

Making Community Impact Work, Work: Three Early Childhood Case Studies
February 6, 2018
The Bridgeport Story

Moderator and Panelist: Dr. Janice Gruendel, Senior Fellow, ICS (Bridgeport, CT and Charlotte, NC)

The Guilford County Story

Panelist: Mary Herbenick, Executive Director of Ready for School, Ready for Life (Guilford County, NC)

The Blue Ridge Partnership for Children Story

Panelist: Jennifer W. Simpson, Director of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children (Avery, Mitchell & Yancey Counties, NC)

Making Community Impact Work in Early Childhood, Work
Making Community Impact Work, Work: The Bridgeport Prospers Early Childhood Story

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What’s Inside

- Balancing time for “relationship-building” and asset mapping with the pressure to leap to “problem solving”
- Assuring a science-informed, cross-generational knowledge framework
- Clarifying our values for policy, practice, programs and systems work
- Using data with all of its warts and worries
- Creating the BHAG
- The “Bridgeport Baby Bundle”
- Moving forward: Checking ourselves with the Rule of “P”
- Celebration and Truth to Power
- Some final words to work, and live, by
Balancing time for “relationship-building” and asset mapping with the pressure to leap to “problem solving”
**Bridgeport Prospers**: The journey takes time and investment in relationships, partnerships and collaboration.

- **2011-2015**: STRIVE TOGETHER Member; B- to post-secondary goals established; United Way as the backbone agency
- **October 2015 & 2016**: 1st and 2nd Annual Data Reports: [October 2015](#) [October 2016](#)
- **June 2016**: Early Childhood CAN reports: B-3 & PK-3rd Summary & Technical Reports
- **June 2017**: Mid-Year Fact to Act Research Report
- **December 2017**: Launch The Bridgeport Basics, Healthy & Ready at Three: The Bridgeport Baby Investment Bundle

Three age cohorts emerge: Healthy and Ready by Three, Success at Six, Shine by Nine

REDESIGNED Core Leadership Team, Data and Research Table, Funders Table, Policy and Advocacy Table, Project Tables

Resilience screening to establish trauma-informed partnerships

Prospers is a STRIVE “cradle to career” collective impact site
Assuring a science-informed, cross-generational knowledge framework
Bridgeport Prospers is anchored in developmental neuroscience

- Trauma
- Toxic Stress
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Poverty
- Racism & Implicit Bias
- Inequity
- Politics...

Cognitive and social-emotional development
- Executive function
- Self-regulation

Mindfulness
- Health
- Hope
- Empathy
- Kindness
- Resilience

Gruendel 12.5.17
Recognizing universal challenges and extra stress for some

Maternal depression
Parent-child attachment
Domestic violence
Substance Abuse
ACES

Unstable/unsafe housing
Family and community violence
Not enough food to get through the month
Unstable child care
Weak social networks & social capital
Unstable work status
Needs of aging parents

Family Basic Needs

Parental Health & Mental Health

Child Health, MH and Behavior

School absences
School suspensions/expulsions
School performance
Developmental delays
Health problems
Anxiety/fear/aggression

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A very powerful resource
Clarifying our values for policy, practice, programs and systems work
Assess and plan from a person-driven, strength-centered, science-informed, skill building framework

Anchor actions in place-based, protective factors

Employ outcome-focused practice and programs, linked through cross-sector partnerships

Values to guide practice, programs and supports
Using data with all of its warts and worries
Back-mapping the facts

- 5\% of 8^{th} graders proficient in math
- 30\% of 3^{rd} graders reading at level
- 30\% of entering K school ready
- 75\% of three-year olds enter Head Start BEHIND
Creating the BHAG
MOST CHILDREN WHO TURN THREE YEARS OF AGE...

- Show a wide range of emotions - Take turns at games – Can dress themselves – Understand the idea of “mine” and “yours” – Show empathy

- Follow 2 or 3 step instructions - Can name most familiar things – Speak well enough that strangers can mostly understand them – Talk using 2 or 3 sentences

- Play make-believe – Can copy shapes – Turn book pages one at a time – Build towers of blocks

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The Goal of Healthy and Ready by Three

All Bridgeport babies born beginning in January 2018 will reach expected health and developmental benchmarks by the age of three.
Science says: To raise kids who are healthy and ready at 3 we need to invest in...
The “Bridgeport Baby Bundle”
The Baby Bundle’s Five Strategies

- Supported Care and Parenting
- An Army of Helpers and Advocates
- Bridgeport Baby Investment Bundle
- Innovation and Better Connections
- Track Change. Measure Impact
A Peek at What’s Inside Each Strategy

Supported Care and Parenting
- The Bridgeport Basics
- Healthy births and home visiting: Family Connects
- Family Child Care
- Early Literacy: Books, Blocks and Babies

An Army of Helpers and Advocates
- “Resilience” screenings
- The Bridgeport Baby Brigade
- Bridgeport Sings
- Leading from the Pulpit

Bridgeport Baby Investment Bundle
- Universal HV: Family Connects
- Universal Developmental Screening
- Early Literacy: Reach Out and Read
- Family Child Care: All our Kin

Innovation and Better Connections
- Neighbor to Neighbor (Southend)
- Elders Rock the Babies
- Top to Bottom (linking food & diapers)
- Mindful Parenting

Track Change. Measure Impact
- National Interoperability Collaborative
- Virtual Baby Data Coalition
- 2-1-1 Child Development Infoline
- Medicaid admin data
Moving forward: Checking ourselves with the Rule of “P”
Jannie’s Rule of ‘P’ – We need all of these working parts

People  Places  Partnerships  Politics  Policy  Practice  Programs
Celebration and “truth to power”
Some final words to work, and live, by
Share everything.
Play fair.
Don't hit people.
Put things back where you found them.
Clean up your own mess.
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody...
When you go out into the world,
Watch out for traffic,
Hold hands and stick together.
Be aware of wonder.

Robert Fulgram, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*