



Erwin McEwen, Director

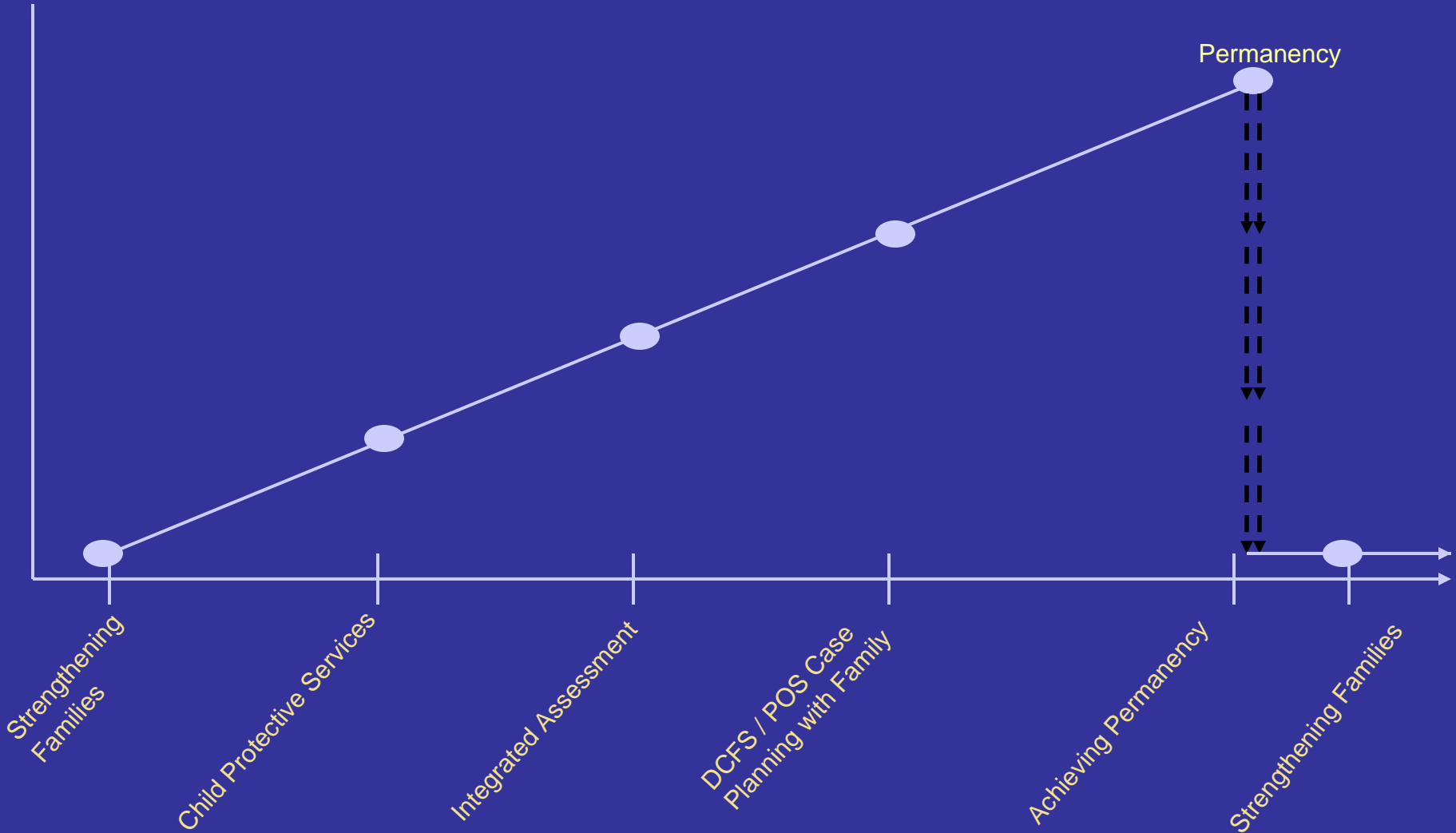
strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

I L L I N O I S

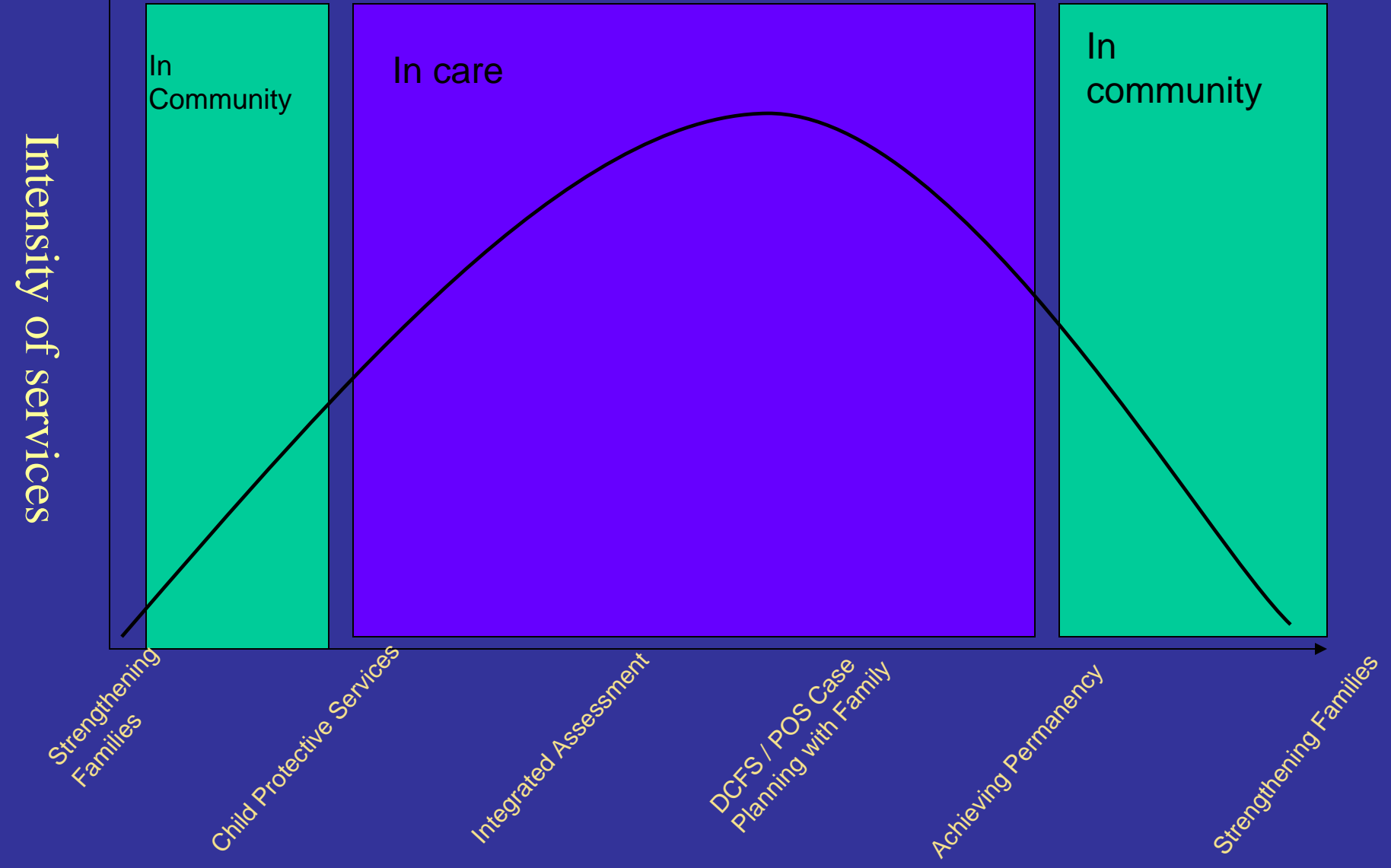
Protecting Children by Strengthening and Supporting Their Families

IDCFS Protective Timeline



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Service intensity within the “Protective Timeline”



Parent Leadership In Communities

Strengthening Families Illinois Initiative:

- Parent Cafes
- Parent Leadership Training
- Parent Café Training Institutes
- Community Cafes
- Statewide Parent Leadership Team (Currently 60 parents)

DCFS targeting parents through ...

- Strengthening Families Networks
- Family Advocacy Centers
- Teen parents in DCFS care
- Birth Parent Councils
- Foster and Adoptive Parents Councils
- Youth Advisory Board



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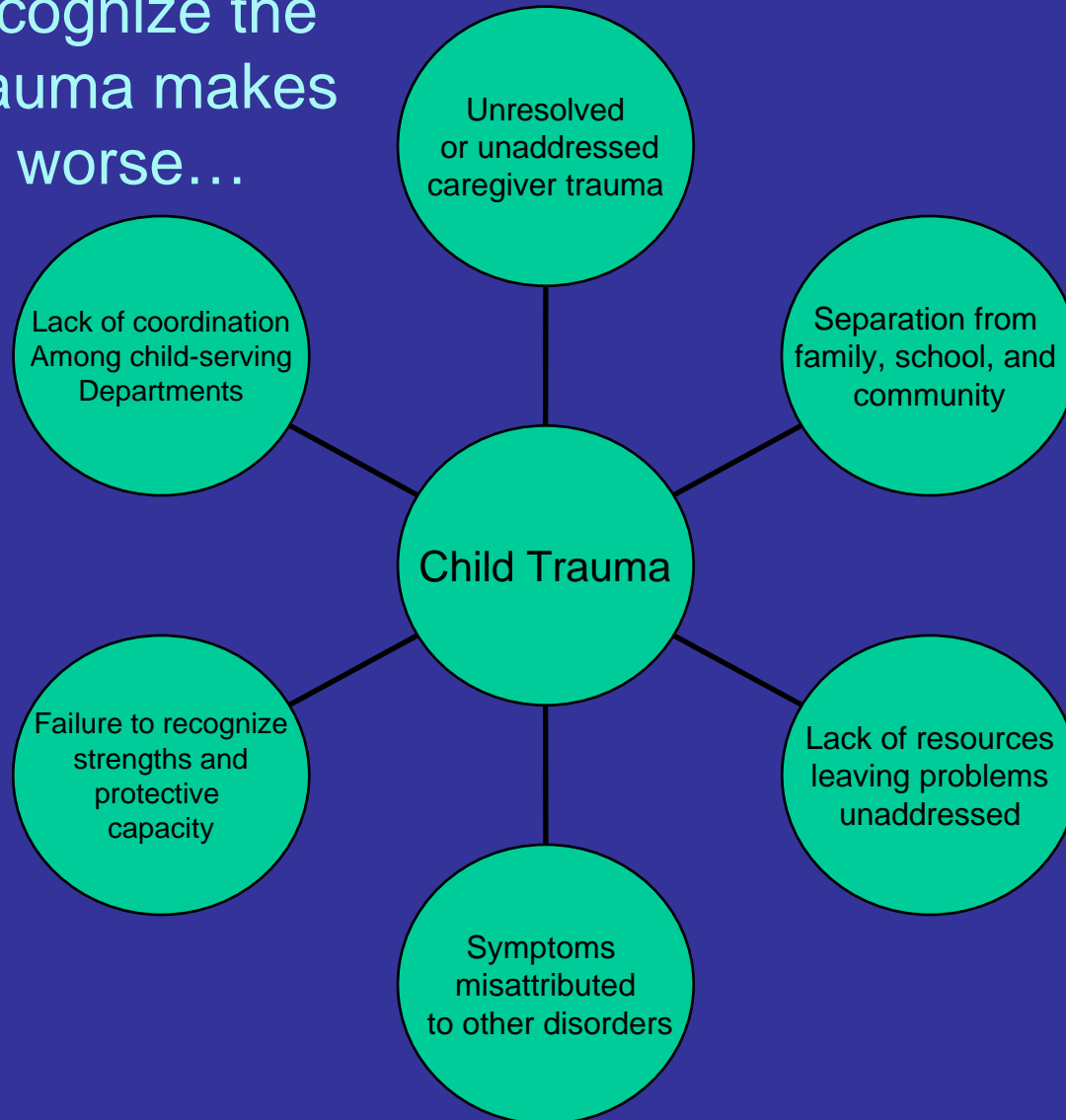
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Overarching Framework: 6 Protective Factors

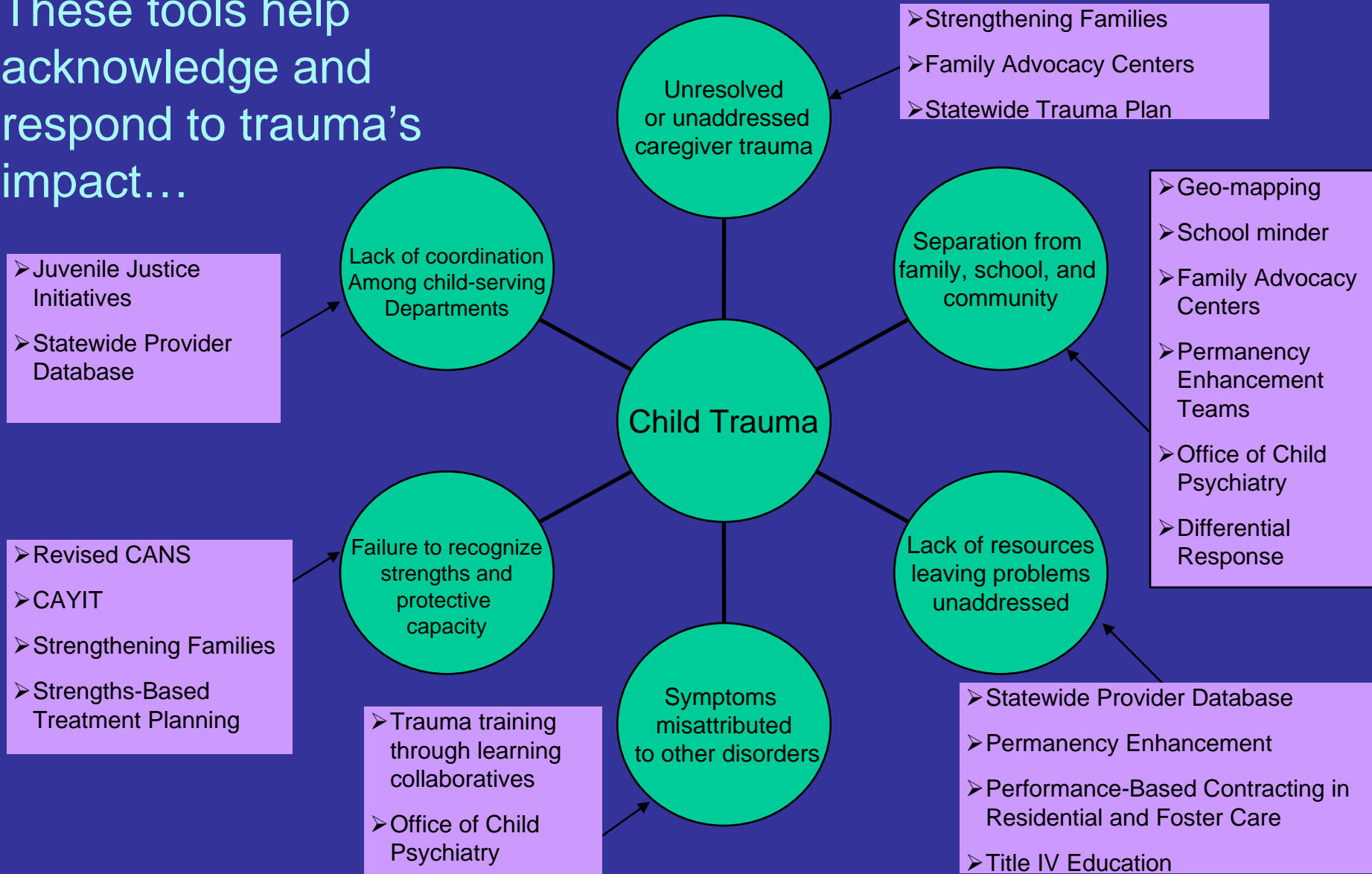
DCFS is strengthening families and protecting children by building:

1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need
5. Social and Emotional Competence of Children
6. Healthy Parent-Child Relationships

Failing to recognize the impact of trauma makes the problem worse...

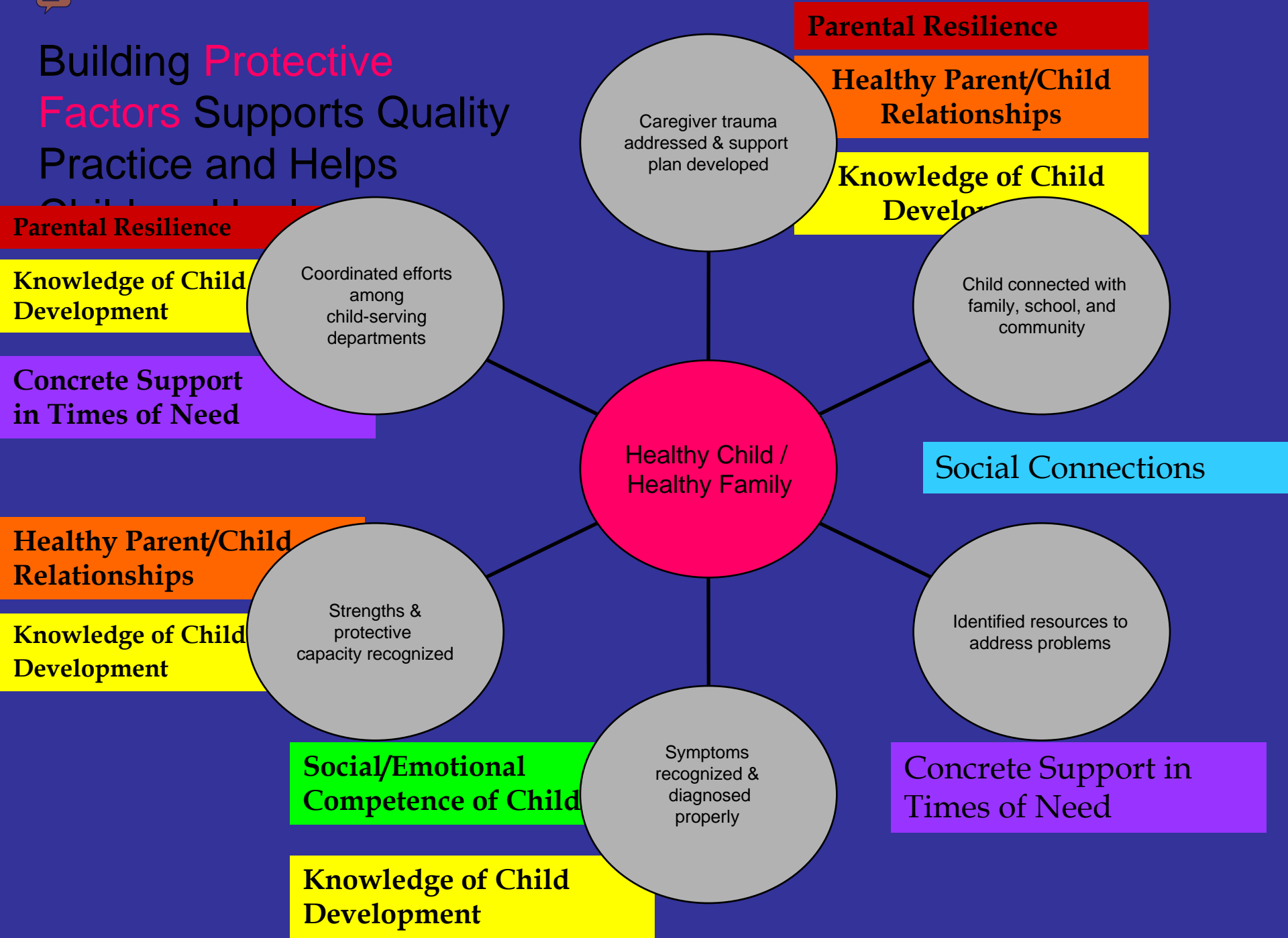


These tools help acknowledge and respond to trauma's impact...





Building Protective Factors Supports Quality Practice and Helps



Early Childhood / Child Welfare Collaboration

- SFI Learning Networks
- Head Start Collaborative Agreements
- School Readiness Team
 - 100% enrollment – All DCFS wards 3 and above in quality early learning programs (Increased number of children of wards and intact families enrolled)
 - Liaisons with early childhood professionals in communities

Aligning Contracts and Service Agenda Using Levers for Change

Examples:

- Clinical Tools
 - CANS
 - Reunification Worksheet
 - Parent's Guide to Reunification
 - Integrated Assessment Template
- Performance Based Contracting and Quality Assurance Tools
- Courts
- Communications
- Training:
 - Learning Collaboratives
 - Curricula (Protective Factors, Psychological First Aid, Trauma)
- Case Review and Service Planning
- Funding Mechanisms

Where Are We Going From Here?

Selected Innovations:

- Family Advocacy Centers
- Permanency Enhancement Teams
- Transformation Teams
- Trauma Initiative
- Differential Response
- Strengths-Based Treatment Planning
- Strengthening Families



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“I’ve learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.”

--Maya Angelou