



**Positioning Public Child Welfare Initiative:**

Strengthening Families in the 21st Century

# Problem

- The field operates under differing philosophical orientations for practice.
- Communities experience inconsistencies in the implementation of practices.
- Expectations and demands of others drive the field of public child welfare.

# Why Now?

- The field has a window of opportunity for change:
  - Leadership with more experience with large scale reform
  - Increasing sophisticated use of data
  - Increasing use of research to guide practice
  - Ability to draw on the experiences of other Human Service Fields in standardizing their fields

# Goals of the Initiative

- To enable the field to speak with a unified voice about its purpose and role in improving outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families.
- To develop the principles and standards that should guide the work of the field.
- To identify how the field will hold itself accountable.
- To identify how the field will evaluate, support innovation, and continuously improve.
- To improve outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families.

# Operating Parameter

- Values and Principles
  - Shared Responsibility
  - Child Centered
  - Family Focused
  - Culturally Competent
  - Inclusive
  - Trustworthy
  - Accountable
  - Collaborative
  - Transparent
  - Data and Evidence Informed

# Operating Parameter

- o Disparities and Disproportionality

- Disproportionality is the pervasive issue of certain groups of children over- or under-represented throughout the child welfare system. It is directly caused by disparities that prevent families from accessing, using or receiving quality care, resources, services and opportunities to thrive. Since disparities are unnecessary, avoidable, unfair and unjust, the issue of disparities and disproportionality holds great significance for the field of public child welfare and are addressed within each domain of the analytic framework. A subcommittee on disparities and disproportionality was established to clarify the terms, examine the relationship between the two terms, and develop guidance on how to eliminate disparities and reduce disproportionality. This subcommittee will inform the written guidance produced by all other subcommittees. Additionally, each other subcommittee will develop guidance on the subject of disproportionality from the perspective of its own domain.

# Operating Parameter

- Target Population for whom public child welfare has primary responsibility:
  - Children, youth and families where allegations of abuse and/or neglect have been made
  - Children, youth and families where there is a high risk of abuse and/or neglect
  - Children and youth who are in the custody of the public child welfare system and their families
  - Children, youth and their families who are not in the custody of the public child welfare system, but for who the provision of services or ongoing oversight is mandated by a court

# Operating Parameter

- Target Population for whom public child welfare has a shared responsibility with the community:
  - Children, youth and families where need is self identified or allegations have not risen to a founded case but may still need services
  - Children and youth who were in custody of the public child welfare system and their families (refers to children and youth in adoptive homes, in kinship and guardianship, etc.)
  - Youth who are emancipated or transitioned

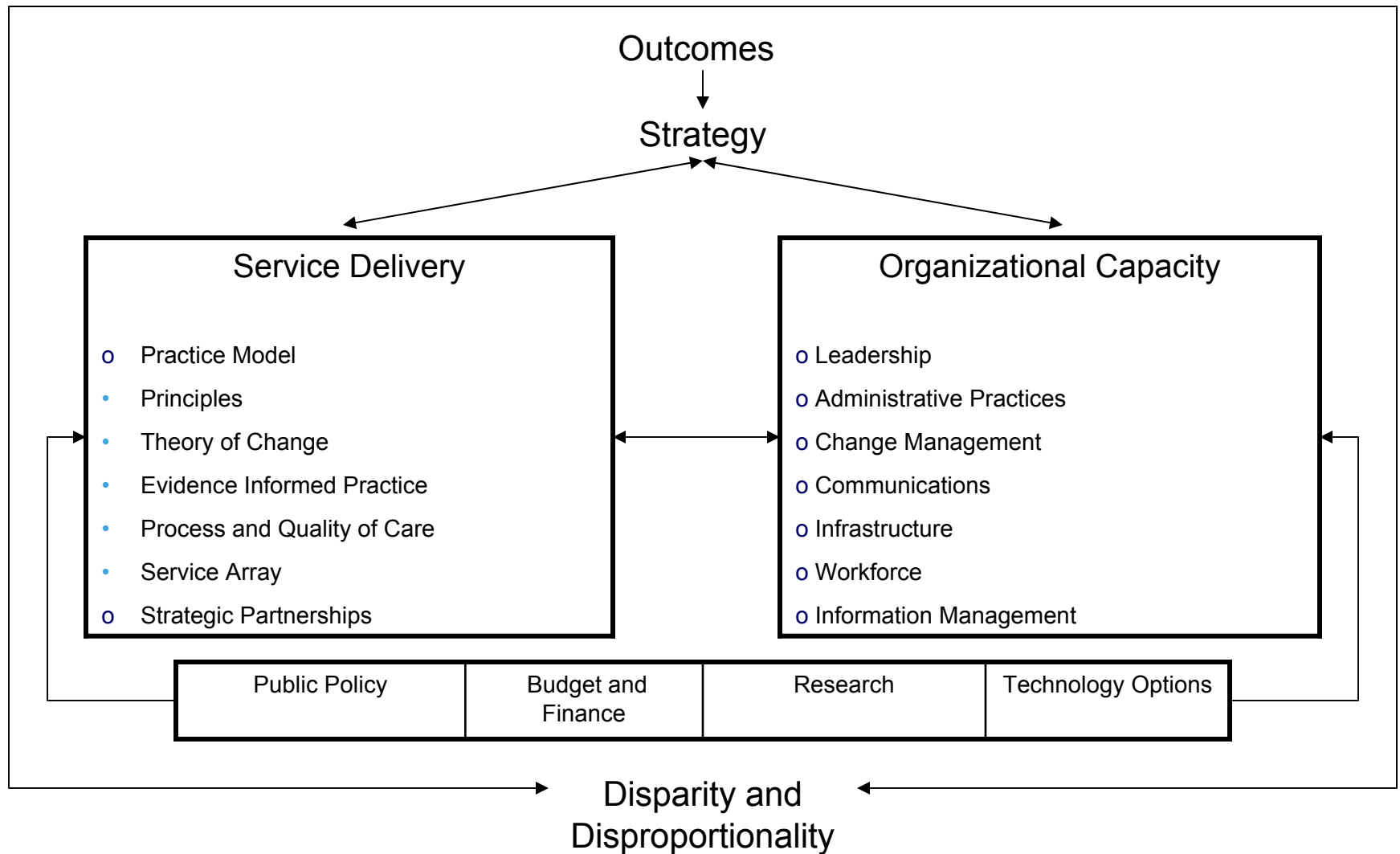
# Operating Parameter

- Role of Public Child Welfare related to its primary population:
  - To identify and prevent child abuse and neglect
  - To secure a basic level of care commensurate with the needs of the target population to include the following:
    - To investigate abuse and neglect
    - To assess the overall functioning of families who come to the attention of public child welfare
    - To determine the safety, risk, and permanency needs of children and youth
    - To develop, implement and monitor a service plan designed to achieve the identified outcomes for children, youth and families
  - To engage and empower children, youth and families as they navigate the public child welfare system
  - To advocate for and provide from both the public and private sector to the target population

# Operating Parameter

- Role of Public Child Welfare in conjunction with the community in a “shared responsibility” relationship:
  - To provide education and awareness of child welfare issues
  - To identify and prevent child abuse and neglect
  - To protect children and youth from abuse and neglect
  - To pursue services in a variety of areas of need for emancipated or transitioned youth

# Analytical Framework



# Domains

- Administrative Practices
- Budget and Finance
- Change Management
- Communications
- Disproportionality
- Information Management
- Infrastructure
- Leadership
- Public Policy
- Research
- Practice Model
- Strategy
- Strategic Partnerships
- Technology Options
- Workforce

# Charters

- Charters have been developed for each Domain
  - Charters frame and lay out bodies of work
  - The Charters are based on the Analytical Framework
  - The Charters incorporate all Inputs and Activities
  - The Charters outline the governance and approach of the Initiative
  - The Charters define the areas needing to be addressed by the Subcommittees

# Charters

- The guidance developed by the subcommittees is laid out in the Charters in two areas.
  - Area I is the development of the guidance
    - Strategy Level
    - Key Processes Level
    - Operations Level
  - Area II is the implementation of the guidance

# Committees

- NAPCWA Executive Committee
  - Approves all products
- Sponsor Group
  - Provides oversight of the Initiative
  - Approves charters
  - Reviews and approves all work of the National Advisory Committee and Subcommittees

# Committee

- National Advisory Committee
  - Reviews and provides guidance on the analytical framework and domains
  - Reviews and provides guidance on the charters
  - Serves as subject matter experts and potential members for the Subcommittees

# Committees

- Subcommittees
  - Conducts and delivers the “chartered” work
  - Prepares recommendations for review by the Sponsor Group

# What will success look like?

- Web-based guidance of the work, how it is to be done, and how it is to hold itself accountable.
- The field of public child welfare will be unified and disciplined as they work in all domains within the framework.
- The business case of public child welfare will be strengthened.
- Children, youth, families and communities will be strengthened.

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