The Safe Babies Court Team[™] (SBCT) Approach: Logic Model

Advancing the Health and Well-Being of Infants, Toddlers, and their Families



Serving children 0 to 3 under court jurisdiction, in foster care or at risk of removal, and their families			
The Challenge	Resources	Key Activities	Immediate Impact
 The SBCT approach was designed to address critical child welfare and dependency court system problems: These systems do not address the urgent needs of infants, toddlers, and their families A one-size-fits all approach is not responsive to the developmental needs of infants and toddlers or the complex needs of their parents Infrequent court hearings and case reviews lead to insufficient oversight and responsiveness Systems are reactive, rather than preventive Lack of systems-level collaboration and problem-solving among key stakeholders, and no entity or individual responsible for leading this effort Limited awareness among judges, attorneys, and child welfare workers about best practices for infants, toddlers, and their families Misk and protective factors are not adequately addressed Services and supports are not strengths-based and do not sufficiently build parental resilience, social connections, and parenting knowledge or skills Parents are frequently sidelined in their children's case planning, with limited opportunities to improve the relationship with their children Services and supports that address families' needs are inequitable and uncoordinated, leading to inaccessibility Services do not address the reasons children come into 	 The National Resource Center for the Infant-Toddler Court Program supports SBCT sites and states through: a facilitated peer-to-peer learning opportunities Data tracking and evaluation Advancing policies that promote and sustain the SBCT approach Astate-level team supports SBCT singlementation in states with multiple sites Mocal communities implement the SBCT approach. Key individuals include: Judge Community Coordinator: A new, defined to the sume sites 	 SBCTs provide structure for interdisciplinary, collaborative, and proactive teamwork: Judicial and Child Welfare Leaders: Model cross-system collaboration and drive improvement through new practices and policies Family Team: The Community Coordinator, parent, family and other supports, caseworker, attorneys, and service providers who work intensively to address child and parent needs Active Community Team: Community partners who work collectively to reduce disparities and advocate for a continuum of services that address child abuse and neglect and promote child and family health and well-being As a powerful platform for cross-sector teamwork, SBCTs ensure: Enhanced Oversight and Collaborative Problem Solving Monthly review hearings Pre- or post-removal conferences Monthly Family Team Meetings Expedited, Appropriate, and Effective Services Systematic identification of needs through screening and assessment Timely prevention and intervention services for infants and toddlers, including early intervention and well-child visits Timely mental health, substance use disorder, health care, and parenting intervention services and concrete supports Trauma-Responsive Support A compassionate in and out of court climate that empowers and values parents in all interactions and promotes resilience 	 Children and families that participate in SBCTs will experience better outcomes: Attachment relationships are nurtured and protected: Children at risk of removal remain with their family, as possible Fewer placement changes Shorter time to permanency Increased reunification and other positive permanency outcomes Prevention of repeat CPS involvement for child and/or siblings Parents remain a part of the child's life, as possible Early childhood development is on a healthy track: Child's development is improved Child has a medical home (preventive pediatric care) Injuries due to abuse and neglect are prevented Parents protective factors are strengthened: Capacity for nurturing, responsive caregiving is improved Capacity for nurturing, responsive caregiving is improved Parents know how to seek and receive support when needed Parents have supportive relationships and increased skills for establishing and maintaining social supports Long-Term Impact Over time, the systems- and capacity-building work of SBCTs contributes to: Increased coordination and alignment of early childhood preventive services Increased availability and accessability of services that address the social determinants of
 care, including parents' own history of early trauma Structural discrimination and implicit bias negatively affect families of color, resulting in disparities and inequities 	 dedicated, full-time position Child welfare agency decision-maker(s) Other system stakeholders including legal, health, mental health, early intervention, early education and care, and other community partners and leaders 	 Mentoring relationships and social supports for parents Frequent, quality family time (visitation; contact) to build and strengthen parent-child attachment Concurrent planning that emphasizes stable, nurturing relationships for the child Continuous Quality Improvement Data is collected and used to track SBCT implementation progress, child and family outcomes, and system improvements Lower rates of child abuse and neglect due to prevention Reduced racial disparity in foster care populations Improved child and family health and well-being outcomes 	• New policies/procedures at the state or local level that ensure equitable services for young children and families