

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) & Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Developing a Theory of Change for Evaluating Residential Interventions from Multiple Perspectives

Association of Children's Residential & Community Services
66th Annual Conference - July 13, 2022 - Louisville, KY

 **CHAPIN HALL**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO


Building Bridges
INITIATIVE
Advancing Partnerships. Improving Lives.

Introductions



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Today's Agenda

1. Introductions
 - a. The Building Bridges Initiative and Outcomes Workgroup
2. The Opportunity: Measuring Residential Outcomes and Impact
3. Theory of Change Overview
4. The BBI Theory of Change for Residential Interventions and Logic Models
5. Workshop
6. Next Steps



The Opportunity

The Opportunity



How might we measure the impacts of residential interventions, facilitate evaluation and develop shared understanding of change with partners and stakeholders?



Context

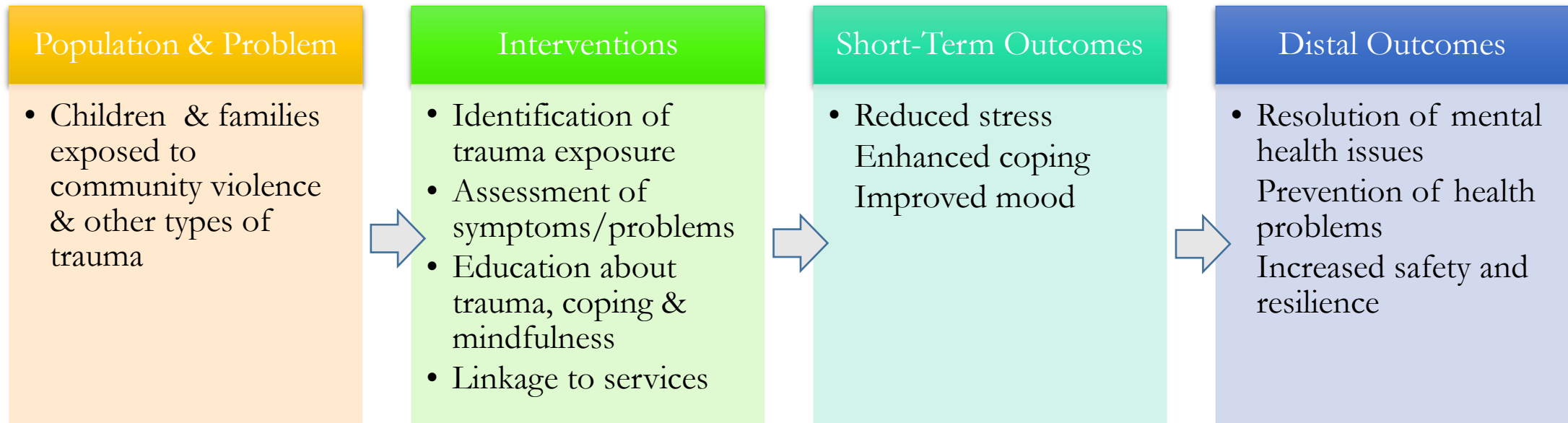
- The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) and its Outcomes Workgroup have identified the need **to measure the impact** of using a system of care framework for residential interventions.
- The BBI theory of change and logic model help to achieve this objective.
- BBI engaged ACRC conference participants to help validate and refine the theory of change in 2021.

Theory of Change Overview

Overview of Theory of Change

- ✓ A method used to select an intervention
- ✓ A model of the expected causal relationships that lead to desired outcomes
- ✓ A visual representation of a change process
- ✓ Can be used at different stages depending on the purpose

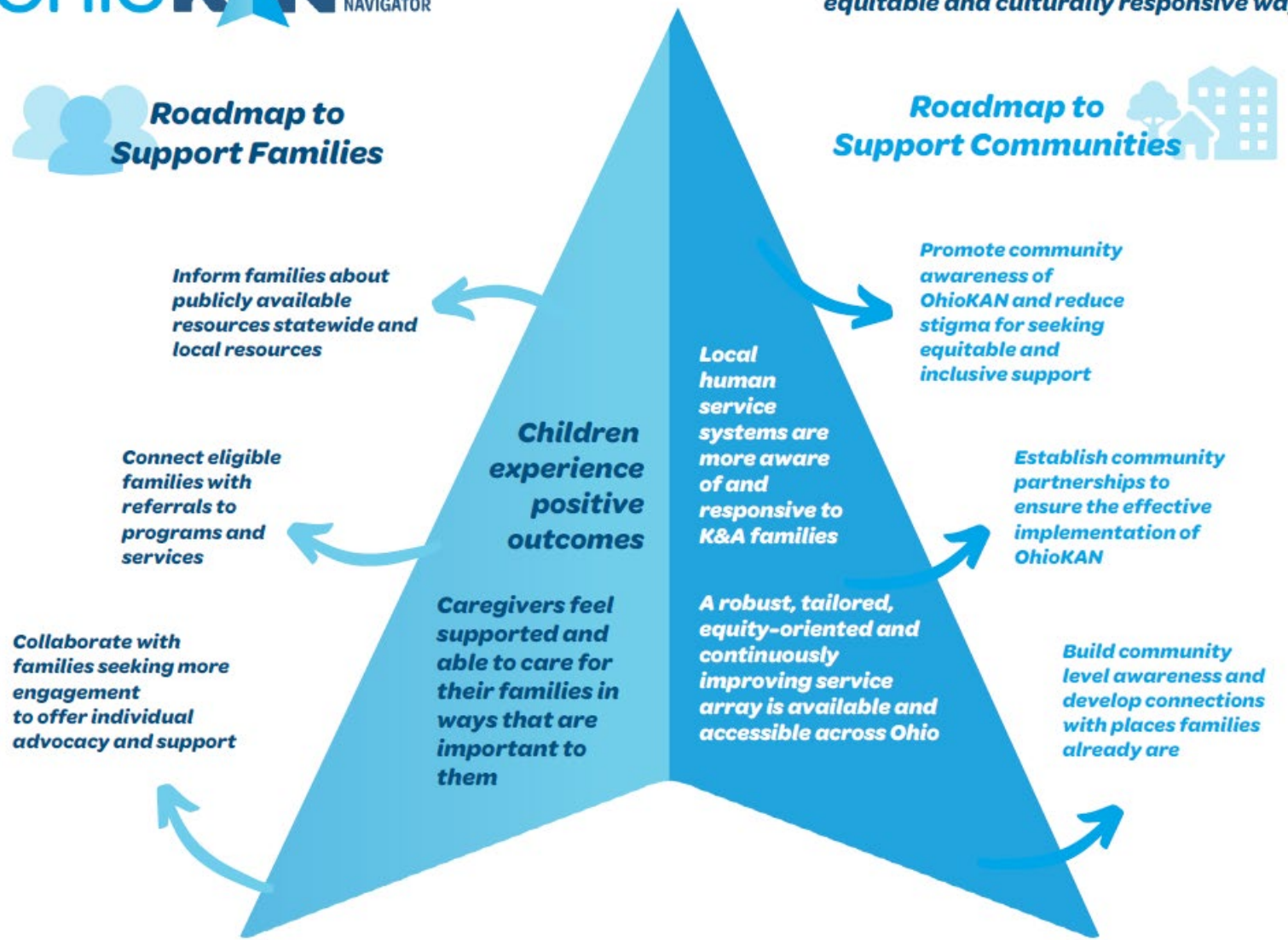
Draft Theory of Change – REACT Assessment Clinic



Navigation services are provided in an equitable and culturally responsive way

Roadmap to Support Families

Roadmap to Support Communities



How the Theory of Change and Logic Model Work Together

- The BBI ***theory of change*** describes the expected causal relationship between the residential intervention and its impacts for youth and families.
- The BBI ***logic model*** clarifies the mechanisms by which the residential intervention achieves the intended effects, thereby operationalizing the theory of change as an actionable evaluative framework.

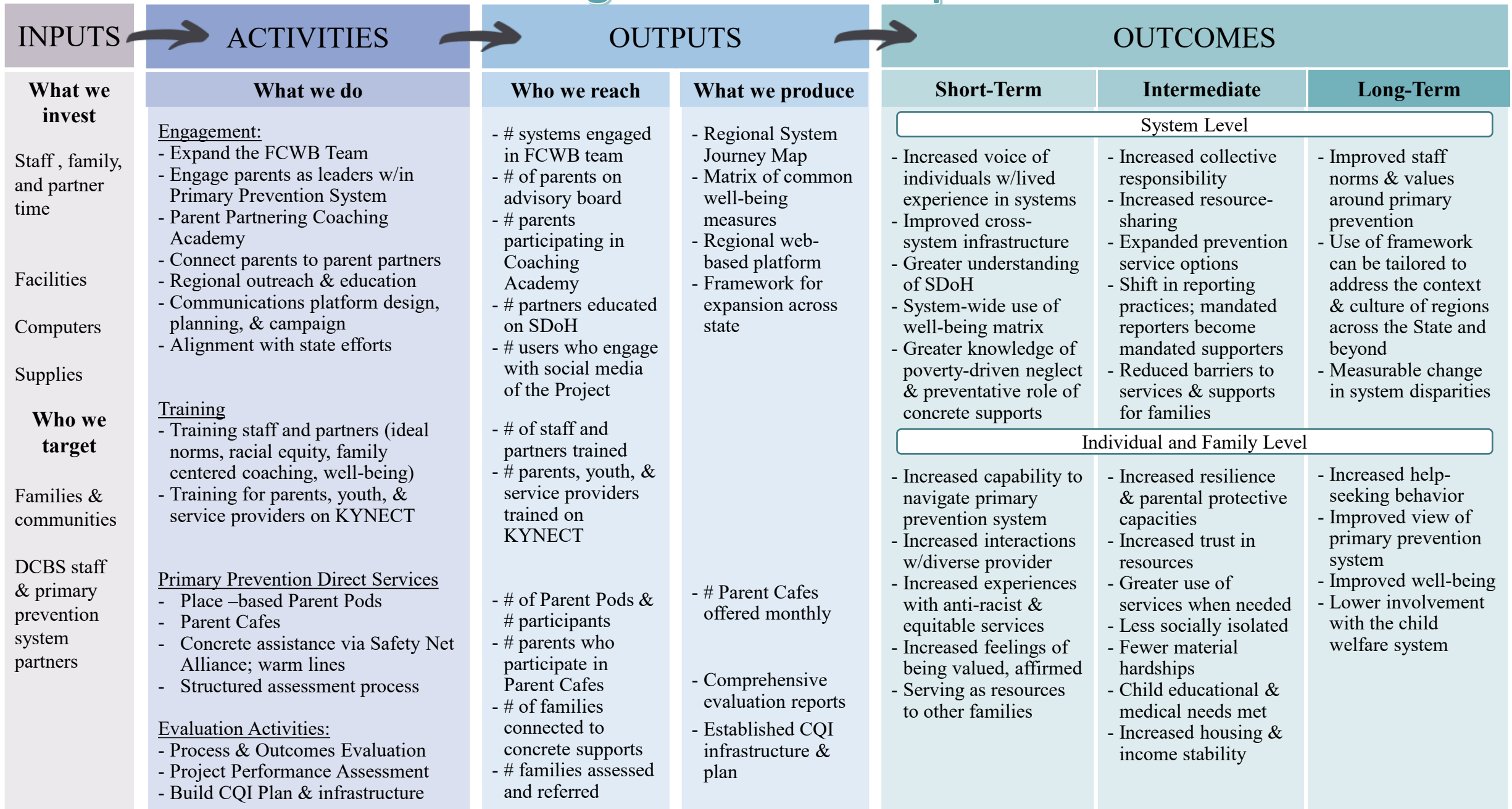
Understanding
HOW the
intervention
makes change



Describing WHAT
to measure to
understand the
change



Logic Model Example



Components of the Logic Model

Can be read as a series
of if-then statements

IF an intervention
has the following
inputs... THEN it will deliver
the following
activities...

Inputs/Resources (what programs need to operate)	Activities (what the programs do to address needs)	Outputs (evidence of successful service delivery)	Outcomes (individual- and family-level outcomes)	Impact (community-level impacts over time)
An input goes here	An activity goes here	An output goes here	An outcome goes here....	An impact goes here

Components of the Logic Model

Can be read as a series
of if-then statements

IF it delivers the
following
activities...



THEN it will have
the following
outputs...

Inputs/Resources (what programs need to operate)	Activities (what the programs do to address needs)	Outputs (evidence of successful service delivery)	Outcomes (individual- and family-level outcomes)	Impact (community-level impacts over time)
An input goes here	An activity goes here	An output goes here	An outcome goes here....	An impact goes here



Components of the Logic Model

Can be read as a series of if-then statements



IF it has the following outputs...

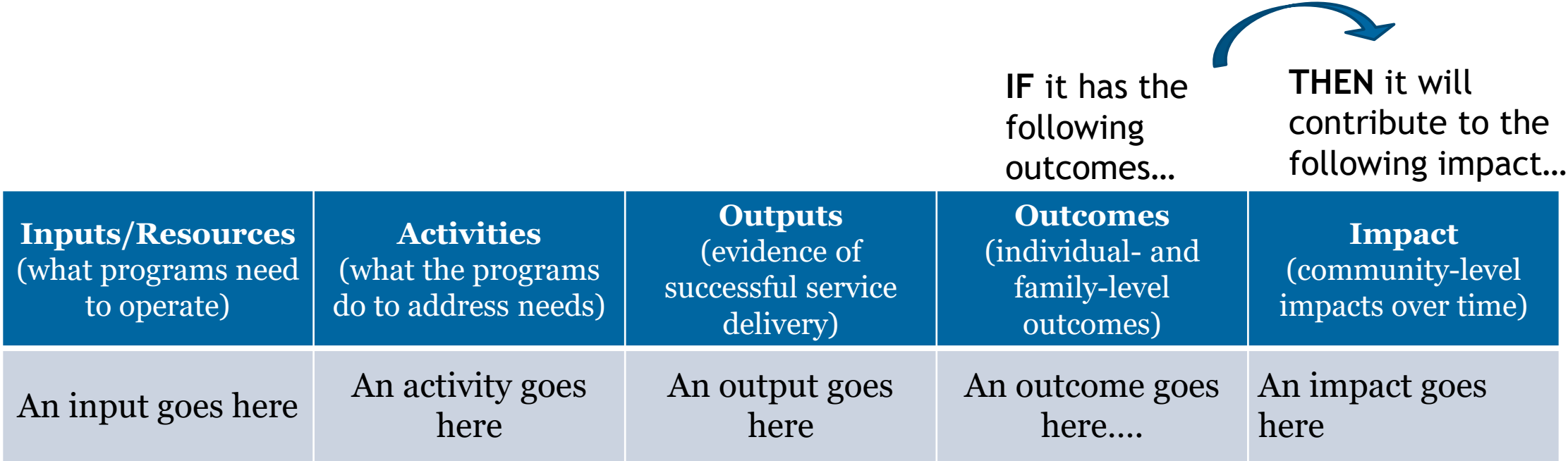
THEN it will have the following outcomes...

Inputs/Resources (what programs need to operate)	Activities (what the programs do to address needs)	Outputs (evidence of successful service delivery)	Outcomes (individual- and family-level outcomes)	Impact (community-level impacts over time)
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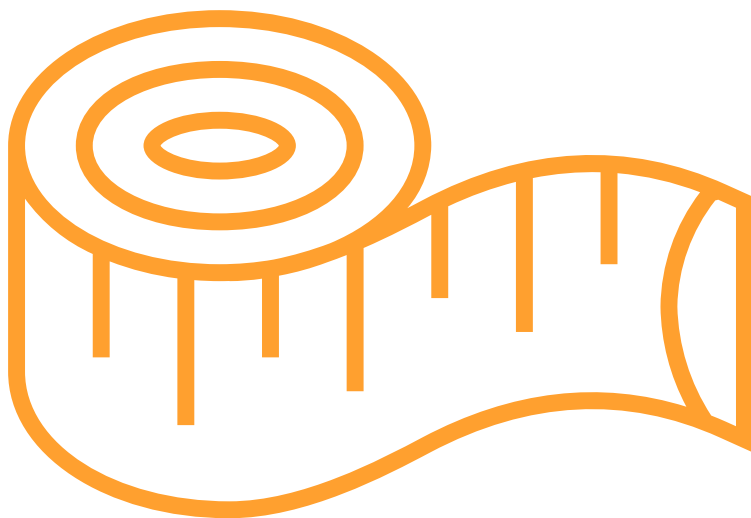


Components of the Logic Model

Can be read as a series
of if-then statements



Measuring Change

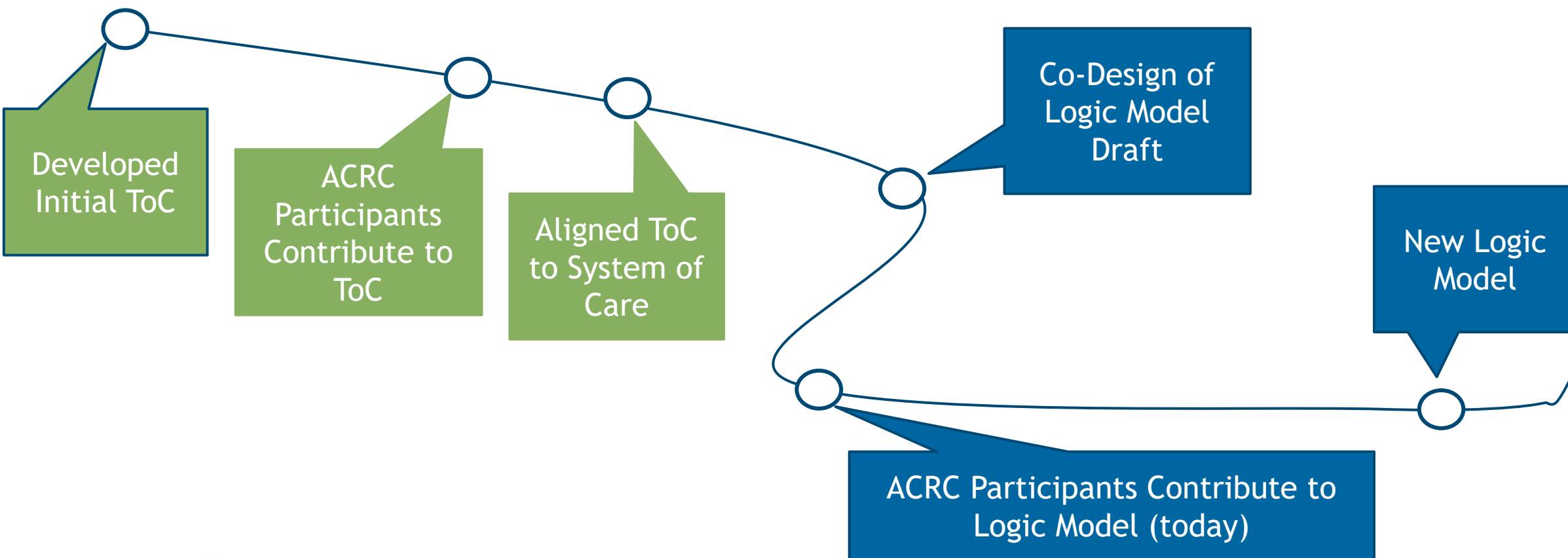


- **Process measures:** A measure of whether an activity has occurred
- **Functional outcomes measures:** A measure of the effect of an intervention
- **Experience measures:** A measure of the value of the experience from the family's perspective



BBI Theory of Change for Residential Interventions

Our Development Process



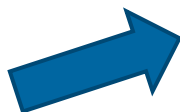
Our First Workshop



- The Outcomes Workgroup developed a contextualized theory of change with logic models at the child and family, residential program, community, and system levels.
- This was the focus of a workshop at the ACRC conference in 2021.
- Attendees provided extensive input, which was consolidated into a more fully iterated version.



Problem Statement and TOC Draft



- Youth and families receive residential interventions because of each family's individualized needs for treatment and supports.
 - Although there have been some evidence supported approaches to residential (ex. Teaching Family Model, RE-Ed, CARES) and many residential programs incorporate specific evidence base practices developed in community settings as part of their clinical programming, currently, there is scant evidence for the overall residential intervention, *per se*.
- Many communities do not have a robust array of community programs and supports; in these communities, youth are more likely referred to residential programs that involve the youth residing at a distance from their family and community.
- The process by which youth are placed often doesn't take into account the unique, distinct needs of the youth and family. Residential is not thought of as an appropriate and targeted option and is sometimes used as placement based on expediency. Needs of youth and families are not necessarily assessed for appropriateness and not matched with the clinical abilities of the provider, creating a "failing up" process.
- The role of families and community partners in the residential intervention is highly variable, leading to challenges upon leaving the residential program and at odd with the Systems of Care family-driven mantra of "nothing about us, without us."
 - The degree to which youth are active, valued participants, with voice, in their own treatment is also highly variable.

BUILDING BRIDGES INITIATIVE THEORY OF CHANGE TEMPLATES				
YOUTH AND FAMILIES				
TARGET POPULATION	KEY STRATEGIES	PRACTICES/OUTPUTS	PROXIMAL OUTCOMES (Proximal/Instrumental)	DISTAL OUTCOMES (Longitudinal)
YOUTH AND FAMILIES <i>Whose outcomes do we aim to improve?</i> Youth with behavioral and mental health challenges significant enough to need an out-of-home intervention. Foster families and kinship families of youth needing residential intervention.	<i>What approaches/strategies are used to involve youth and families as partners in residential interventions?</i> Child and family team planning process Frequent interactions and communication with staff (daily ideal no less than weekly)	<i>What mechanisms, practices, outputs implement the strategies?</i> Use of parent partners An active family/caregiver advisory council connected to agency leadership.	<i>What outcomes will youth and families experience/achieve during the residential intervention?</i> MEASURED IMPROVEMENT IN: Youth skills needed to safely navigate life at home and in the community Percentage of youth returning to a permanent living situation	<i>What long term sustained positive outcomes will youth and families experience?</i> INCREASED PERCENTAGE OF: Youth in school or working Youth not returning to a residential program, or higher level of intervention or out-of-home placement

Since Then...

- BBI contracted with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago to consult on further development and visualization of the Theory of Change.
- The Outcomes Workgroup reviewed the feedback and reconceptualized the theory of change based on pillars of the system of care approach, as opposed to the four contextualized levels. This put the focus more squarely on the anticipated outcomes for youth and families, aligned with the systems of care framework, upon which the BBI framework is built.



The System of Care Framework

- Family- and Youth-Driven
- Culturally Humble and Linguistically Competent
- Equitable
- Home- and Community-Based
- Trauma-Informed
- Strengths-Based and Individualized
- Data-Driven and Outcome Oriented



Our Draft Logic Model

- The result is a set of logic models in seven domains aligned with the framework. That is the focus of our workshop today.
- The work of visualizing the TOC will occur following the consolidation of the input from today.

Workshop

Adding to and Prioritizing the Logic Model

For the pillar at your table, discuss the following questions as a group:

- What is missing in any of the columns?
- What can be removed or combined with other items?
- Which of the items in the activity column are priorities for this pillar?
- What other feedback do you have?

Strengths-Based and Individualized
Services and supports focused on the positive attributes or characteristics of each child, youth, and family and tailored to their unique preferences and needs

Inputs/Resources (what programs need to operate)	Activities (what the programs do to address needs)	Outputs (evidence of successful service delivery)	Outcomes (individual and family-level outcomes)	Impact (community-level impacts over time)
<p>Staff training in strengths-based and individualized service planning</p> <p>Tools or methods to support strengths-based and individualized service planning</p>	<p>Youth treated with an individualized approach</p> <p>Youth treated with a strengths-based approach</p>	<p>Individualized service plans reflect strengths and needs of child, youth, and family</p>	<p>Closer connections to services identified as family by youth</p> <p>Families have developed skills that help them respond effectively to the youth's needs and behavioral challenges and promote positive outcomes</p> <p>Enhancement of family strengths and needs for youth to achieve better health/security needs met</p>	



Discussion

What did you notice about the logic model? Any insights to share?

What recommendations do you have for the team as it prepares to collect data on residential interventions?

What questions do you still have about this effort?

Next Steps

Our Next Steps

1. Undertake a longitudinal study of the impact of residential interventions using this framework
2. Provide the logic model to residential providers to support improved practice and impact
3. Offer technical assistance to interested providers to operationalize the framework

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