At the Intersection of Two Systems: Child Welfare and Early Care and Education

October 17, 2018
Thank you!
Agenda

• Introduction
• Findings and Implications
• Q & A
Project Introduction
The Child Welfare Challenge

Represents 45,000+ children in LA County

Of all children born in California and LA County...

15% were reported for maltreatment before age 5

5% were substantiated as victims of maltreatment before age 5

2% were placed in foster care before age 5
The Early Care and Education (ECE) Opportunity

Early Care and Education

- Cognitive Development
- Parental Support
- Social-Emotional Development
- Safety, Permanency, Well-being

But ECE may be underutilized by the children and families who could benefit from it the most…
LA has a strong history of cross sector collaboration.

But…

There is still a long way to go in making the promise of access to subsidized ECE a reality for all of those who need it, including families involved with CPS.

For that reason…

We wanted to:

• Explore the extent to which the families of children born in LA County -- and especially those who become involved with the CPS system -- manage to access and enroll young children in subsidized ECE services.

• Observe how families interact with these two complex service systems.

• Explore demographic differences among these groups using characteristics known to be predictive of CPS-involvement that are captured on the birth record.
Methods

Birth Records for SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-12)

CCRC Subsidized ECE Records for SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-2016)

CPS Records for the state of CA (2010-16)

Involvement in one or both systems
Order of involvement
Demographic differences between different groups

CalWORKs Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, Alternative Payment, Family Child Care Home Education Network, and Early/Head Start
Limitations:
Missing or Inaccurate Data, and...

- Born outside LA whose families later moved to LA
- Received subsidized ECE outside of SPAs 1 and 2
- Received a type of subsidized ECE not included in the current study
- Received subsidized ECE from another organization
- Did not receive subsidized ECE
- Received subsidized ECE outside of SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-12)
- Birth Records for SPAs 1 and 2
- CPS Records for the state of CA (2010-16)
- CCRC Subsidized ECE Records for SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-2016)
- Interacted with CPS in another state
- Abused or neglected, but never reported
Findings and Implications
Births

102,649 Births in SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-12)

CCRC Subsidized ECE Records for SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-2016)

CPS Records for the state of CA (2010-16)
102,649 Births in SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-12)

11,450 Received Subsidized ECE through CCRC (2010-2016)

CPS Records for the state of CA (2010-16)

11% of all babies born in SPAs 1 and 2
Children Born in 2010-2012 who Received Subsidized ECE through CCRC Before Age 5 (n=11,450)

Most common entry point (35%): CalWORKs Stage 1

2nd (27%): CalWORKs Stage 2

3rd (15%): CalWORKs Stage 3

697 (6%) Alternative Payment (AP)

89 (1%) FCCHEN

262 (2%) Early Head Start

4,441 (39%) Head Start

ECE Population

Children’s Data Network
102,649 Births in SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-12)

11,450 Received Subsidized ECE through CCRC (2010-2016)

11,976 were CPS-Involved (2010-16)

12% of all babies born in SPAs 1 and 2
CPS Population

Children Born in 2010-2012 who were CPS-involved Before Age 5 (n=11,976)

Timing:
CPS involvement happened early (83% before age 2)
102,649 Births in SPAs 1 and 2 (2010-12)

11,450 Received Subsidized ECE through CCRC (2010-2016)

11,976 were CPS-Involved (2010-16)

2,873 (2% of all babies born in SPAs 1 and 2)
25% of all children receiving subsidized ECE were CPS-involved
And 4% experienced foster care

24% of all CPS-involved children were receiving subsidized ECE
Of the 2,873 children served by both systems:
• 62% were first served by CPS
• 83% were first served as infants and toddlers

Of the subgroup (1,078) who entered ECE before CPS:
• 90% entered through CalWORKs-based child care
  ➢ 58% entered through Stage 1
  ➢ 32% entered through Stage 2 or 3
31% of CalWORKs Stage 1 children were CPS-involved

30% of CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3 children were CPS-involved

22% of AP/FCCHEN children were CPS-involved

19% of HS/EHS children were CPS-involved
Finding 1

The Likelihood of Involvement in ECE and CPS Systems in This Sample Was Almost Equal - 1 in 9

11% (n=11,450) received subsidized ECE through CCRC

12% (n=11,976) received a referral to CPS for alleged abuse or neglect
Finding 1

For this cohort, there was a nearly equal likelihood of involvement in ECE and CPS
Demographics Associated with CPS and ECE Participation

- Declared Paternity at Birth: % CPS-Involved: 10.2, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 9.7
- Missing Declared Paternity at Birth: % CPS-Involved: 28.3, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 28.2
- Family of 3 or More Children: % CPS-Involved: 18.9, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 18.2
- Mother More than HSD: % CPS-Involved: 6.8, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 7.2
- Mother HSD or Less: % CPS-Involved: 18.1, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 16.6
- Maternal Age 19 Years or Younger: % CPS-Involved: 25.3, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 27
- White Mother: % CPS-Involved: 6.8, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 5.7
- Hispanic Mother: % CPS-Involved: 14.8, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 14.4
- African-American Mother: % CPS-Involved: 27, % Receiving Subsidized ECE: 32.1

Children’s Data Network
Finding 2

The subsidized ECE and CPS populations had a lot in common
Geographic Differences

- African-American Mother: 13.9% (SPA 1), 3.0% (SPA 2)
- Mother under Age 25: 34.3% (SPA 1), 20.2% (SPA 2)
- Public Insurance: 54.1% (SPA 1), 43.8% (SPA 2)
- Family of 3 or More Children: 34.7% (SPA 1), 24.8% (SPA 2)
- Missing Declared Paternity at Birth: 12.3% (SPA 1), 6.8% (SPA 2)

SPA 1: Red
SPA 2: Gray
Characteristics associated with system involvement were more prevalent among children born in SPA 1 than 2
Finding 4

Entry points can provide opportunities for prevention
Finding 5

These systems can work together to connect the dots for families
Finding 6: Data Already Available Through Birth and Other Administrative Records Can Help Make the Case for Connecting Families to Supportive Services and Cross-System Coordination

Los Angeles County has a long way to go in ensuring access to subsidized ECE for all (and especially CPS-involved) families.

But, existing partnerships, shared purpose, and lessons learned from previous efforts form a firm foundation on which to build.

We should continue to leverage resources and data to create lasting ECE-CPS connections.
Questions?