

LB 1173 Work Group

Disproportionality in Nebraska Child Welfare: The Community Speaks

The Stephen Group

Sharon R Williams, Senior Consultant

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Community Perspectives on Disproportionality

Community Forums and Interviews (February-April)

Community agencies

Law enforcement/court systems/CFS officials

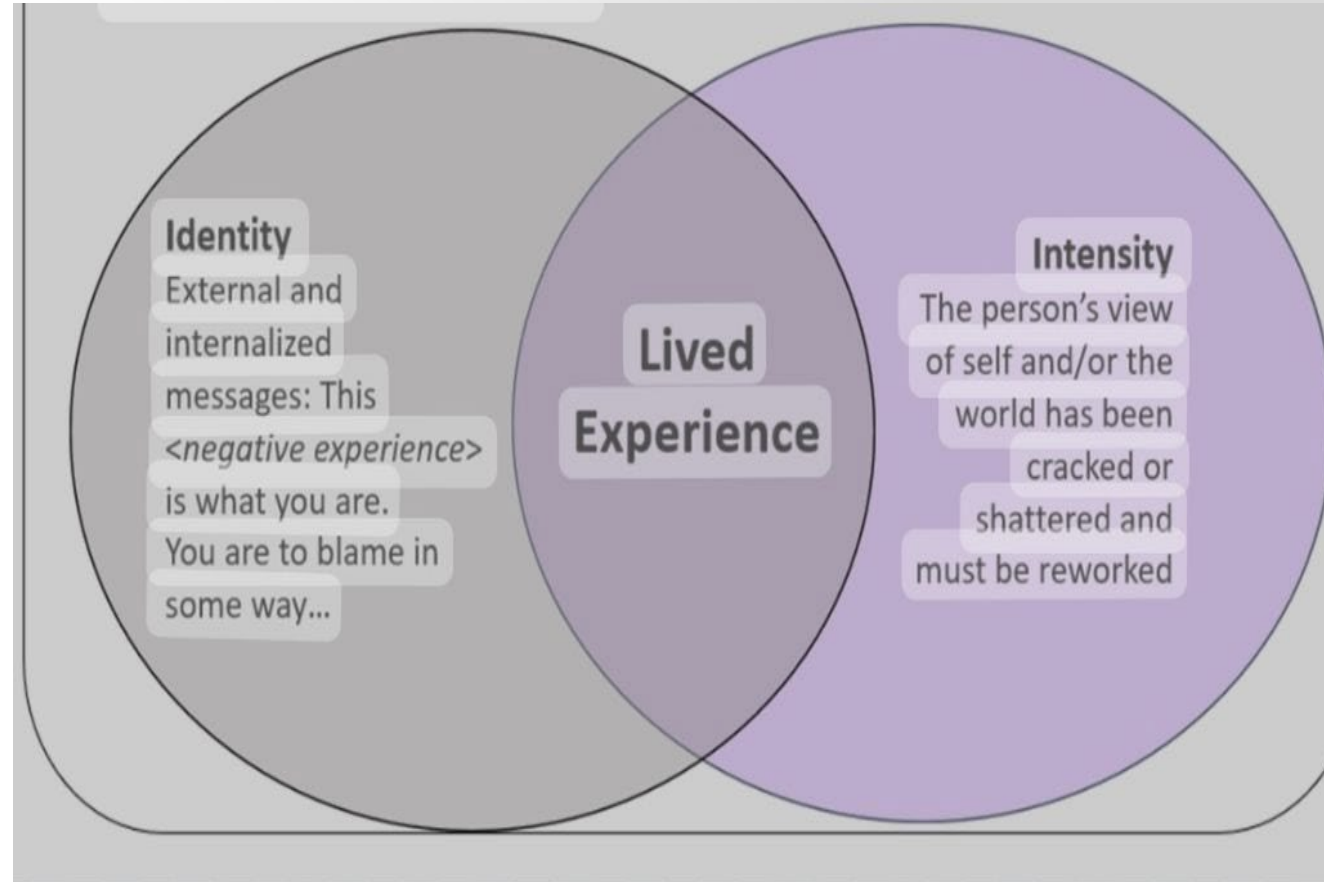
Bring Up Nebraska Community Collaboratives

Sovereign Nations

LivedEx stakeholders

LivedEx Matters

- Ingenuous engagement
- Accountability
- Leverage community value
- Promote co-creation pathways





Recurring Themes: Community Impact

- Invest in development of culturally appropriate staffing models throughout the inter-connected systems
- Limited availability of language translation services
- Raise staff/administration consciousness about Native sovereignty/CW systems
- Inconsistent support for children aging out of the system to foster stable transitions
- Inconsistent availability of family supports e.g., education re: family rights/responsibilities & system navigation
- Provide alternative pipeline options for families to seek preventive support without having to register via hotline



Recurring Themes: Community Impact (cont.)

- Increase funding/focus on culturally competent preventative services to strengthen family/community capacity to sustain safe & healthy homes where children can thrive
- African American, LatinX and Native families/communities can be irreparably harmed by over representation in the Child Welfare system (CW)
- It's a commonly held perception among LivedEx communities that CFS engagement catalyzes families'/children's transition into the criminal justice pipeline
- The current system does not provide adequate supports to mitigate multi generational CW engagement



Recurring Themes: Systemic Issues

- Mandatory school systems staff training for children/families with intense social-psyche needs/trauma to enhance their sensitivity to these children's needs/behavior and ability to thrive in the classroom
 - May reduce excess reporting from school system
- Discrepant inter agency practices/policies often lead to inconsistent results, confusion for families, delays in services/processing
- Previous reform for required reporting incentivizes unnecessary reporting/investigations/family trauma
- Address socio-environmental issues that impact community/family wellbeing, e.g., affordable housing, lead poisoning in N. Omaha, poor water quality near mfg plant runoffs
- Behavioral health/Substance Use Disorder practitioner delays in access and treatment often leads to non-compliance with court orders (accounts for nearly 37% of referrals)
- Medicaid eligibility for some families in need is unavailable
- Intensify system-wide support for children with special needs/disabilities
- Workforce shortages (high) turnover across multiple systems
 - Disrupts administrative operations
 - Inconsistency in family case coordination/outcomes



Promising Practices

- Family Empowerment is a central theme of reimagining child welfare amongst families/communities
- Bring Up Nebraska Community Collaboratives are providing valuable services/supports in their communities
- Several Native CW agencies report improved relations/coordination with the Department over the last 12 years
- Native government agencies are also evaluating child welfare reform
- UNMC has launched several initiatives to expand training, recruitment and availability of allied health and health practitioners in rural communities
- DHHS CEO and staff are developing an early intervention agenda to promote timely adaption of key recommendations
- Strong Departmental commitment to solicit input from families/communities and to advance co-creation opportunities
- 1173 community outreach is galvanizing local community agency networking/coordination



More To Come...

- Continuation of the 'boots-on-the-ground' engagement with diverse stakeholders
- Ongoing research that illuminates best practices to inform pathways for NE transformation
- Evaluation of state practices/policies to promote improved outcomes
- Drafting of Work Group Report/Recommended Practice Model



Thank You!
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Questions?!

