

# Kick Off Meeting

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Prevention Services Workgroup

**Family First**



**BLUE  
PRINT**  
*For* **FAMILY FIRST**

The logo features the words "BLUE PRINT" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, the word "For" is written in a light blue script font, followed by "FAMILY FIRST" in bold, white capital letters. The entire logo is set against a dark blue circular background, which is itself centered within a larger, lighter blue circular graphic. The background of the slide also features a large, faint watermark of the State of Georgia seal and several smaller, semi-transparent circular and rectangular shapes in shades of blue.



# Agenda for today

---

- **Welcome and Desired results**
- **Introduction to the Family First Prevention Services Act**
  - The Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the terminology.
- **The purpose and role of the Prevention Services Workgroup (PSW)**
- **The process and timeline for the work**
- **Next steps**



# Desired results

---

- A shared understanding of Family First, evidence-based programs, the Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the terminology.
- A shared understanding of the role and purpose of the Prevention Services Workgroup (PSW)
- A shared understanding of the process moving forward

# Introduction to Family First, Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the terminology





# The Family First Prevention Services Act

---

**Landmark legislation:** Most significant child welfare law to pass in 20 years

Dramatically alters the federal financing structure for child welfare programming (Title IV-E).

Policy themes:

- Prevent unnecessary placement
- Promote family based care



# The Family First Prevention Services Act

---

States can receive 50% reimbursement for *qualified prevention services* provided to:

- “candidate” children at imminent risk of foster care entry, their parents and/or kin caregivers.
- youth in foster care who are pregnant or parenting

GA candidacy definition

**Children at imminent risk of entering foster care will be defined as children who receive Ongoing Services (Family Preservation)**



# The Family First Prevention Services Act

---

There are 3 categories of prevention services:

- 1) Mental health treatment
- 2) Substance abuse treatment and prevention
- 3) In-home, skill-based parenting programs

All prevention services must be provided within a trauma-informed organizational structure and treatment framework.



## To draw down prevention funds, states must...

---

1. Have an approved 5-year *state Prevention Plan*
  - Includes a list of EBP services for which the state will claim
2. Be implementing FFPSA congregate care provisions
3. Use programs rated and approved by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse





## The Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the terminology

---

States must use evidenced-based programs (EBPs) rated and approved by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse.

The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse was established:

- by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- to conduct an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements.

### What is an Evidence-Based Program?

*Evidence-based programs are programs that have been rigorously tested in controlled settings, proven effective, and translated into practical models that are widely available to community-based organizations*



## The Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the terminology

---

- The Clearinghouse rates EBPs in the following four categories:

Well-supported

Supported

Promising

Does not currently  
meet criteria

- As of March 2021, the Clearinghouse approved 29 programs in the first three categories. 22 programs did not meet criteria
- The Clearinghouse has developed a working list of the next programs and services planned for systematic review. There are currently 29 programs on the list for planned review.
- At least 50 percent of a state's total FFPSA prevention expenditures must be for "well-supported" services by 2024



## VALUES

- Children and youth have the right to form and maintain stable and healthy attachments with family and supportive adults and remain in their home communities.
- Children and youth deserve to be safe from harm.
- Children and families do best in communities that cohesive, empowered, and supported.
- Individual and family identity, culture, and tradition are respected and affirmed.
- Identifying, addressing and reducing disproportionality and structural racism is essential for achieving our shared vision.
- Child welfare is part of a network of agencies and community-based actors collectively responsible for child safety and family well-being.
- Our workforce is a valuable asset and must be empowered to achieve our vision.

## IMPACT

Children and youth spend less time in foster care and more time with family.

Communities and families are strengthened and empowered.

Families have increased resiliency, self-sufficiency, stability, and lasting connections.



# POLL

---

***The background for this work (i.e., Family First, Title IV-E Clearinghouse, EBPs) is clear to me.***

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. The seal contains the text "DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES", "STATE OF GEORGIA", "CONSTITUTION", and "1776".

# **Purpose and role of** The Prevention Services Workgroup (PSW)





# Family First Workgroups in Georgia

---

## Candidacy Workgroup

Review of target population data – and development of FFPSA candidacy definition

## Practice and Policy Workgroup

Development of business process maps, and inform alignment of policies with FFPSA requirements

## Readiness Workgroup

Development of Family First workforce training and capacity development strategy

## Prevention Services Workgroup

Recommend Family First Evidence-Based Programs

## QRTP Workgroup

TBD

## CQI and Data Workgroup

Develop CQI measurement frameworks, fidelity monitoring and data collection processes



# Purpose and role of The Prevention Services Workgroup

---

## **The Prevention Services Workgroup:**

- Informs recommendations for Family First EBPs for Georgia's Title IV-E Prevention Plan. Final decisions are made by the Steering Committee based on the workgroup's recommendation.
- Recommendations should reflect best interest of children and families in Georgia.
- Represents members from service providers and DFCS across State of Georgia with expertise related to child welfare and prevention services.
- Participation in this group does not influence future family first contracting.



# Purpose and role of The PSW Core Group

---

**As part of planning the process for this workgroup, we have engaged a small Core Group, that...**

- represents key internal and external stakeholder groups including sister agencies
- guides development of decision-making frameworks for the Prevention Services Workgroup
- offer ad hoc assistance in validating and/or developing processes and materials for the Prevention Services Workgroup

....also participates in the Prevention Services Workgroup's meetings





# Focus groups with youths and families

---

**To ensure selection of the right EBPs, we are conducting**

## **FAMILY and YOUTH focus groups**

- Youth and families with lived experiences have knowledge and insights that will help Georgia develop a statewide service array and supports for families.
- Focus groups will be coordinated and facilitated in collaboration with partners and stakeholders with access and knowledge about the groups
- Conducted in March-April 2021



# POLL

---

***The purpose of this workgroup is clear to me.***

# The **process of selecting EBPs** for Georgia's Title IV-E Prevention Plan





# Process and Timeline

---

The Prevention Services Workgroup will hold **six meetings** through June 2021.

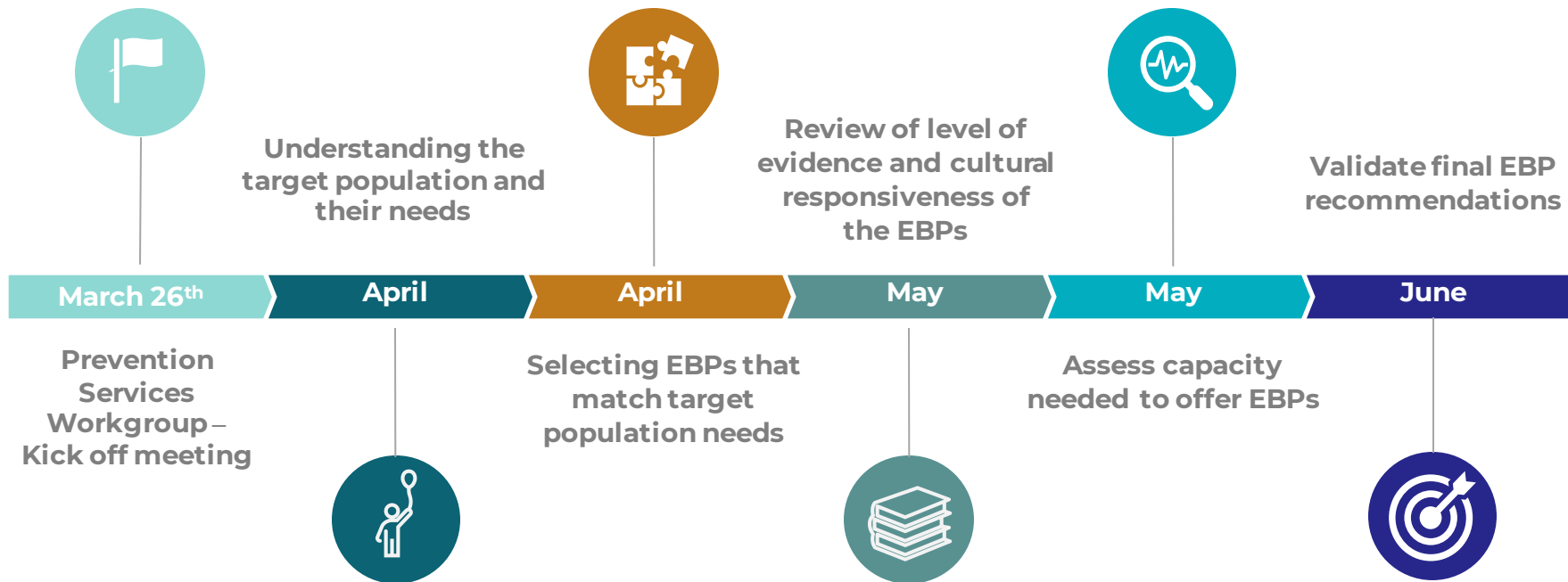
Each meeting will be approximately **90 minutes**.

## **The structure of each meeting:**

- **Welcome** and desired results of the meeting
- Presentation of **data and stakeholder input** (*including from workgroup*) to guide decision-making
- **Rate or select EBPs** based on data and input (*facilitators will lead*)
- **Poll** for all workgroup members on specific topics to inform EBP selection (results shared at following meeting)



# Process and Timeline





# How will we select EBPs?

**FIT**  
*with  
Georgia's  
children &  
families*

How many families could be served by the EBP?

Does the EBP meet the needs of the children and families in Georgia?

How effective is the EBP with GA's racial and ethnic groups?

**FEASIBILITY**  
*of  
implementation*

Is the EBP already offered in GA?

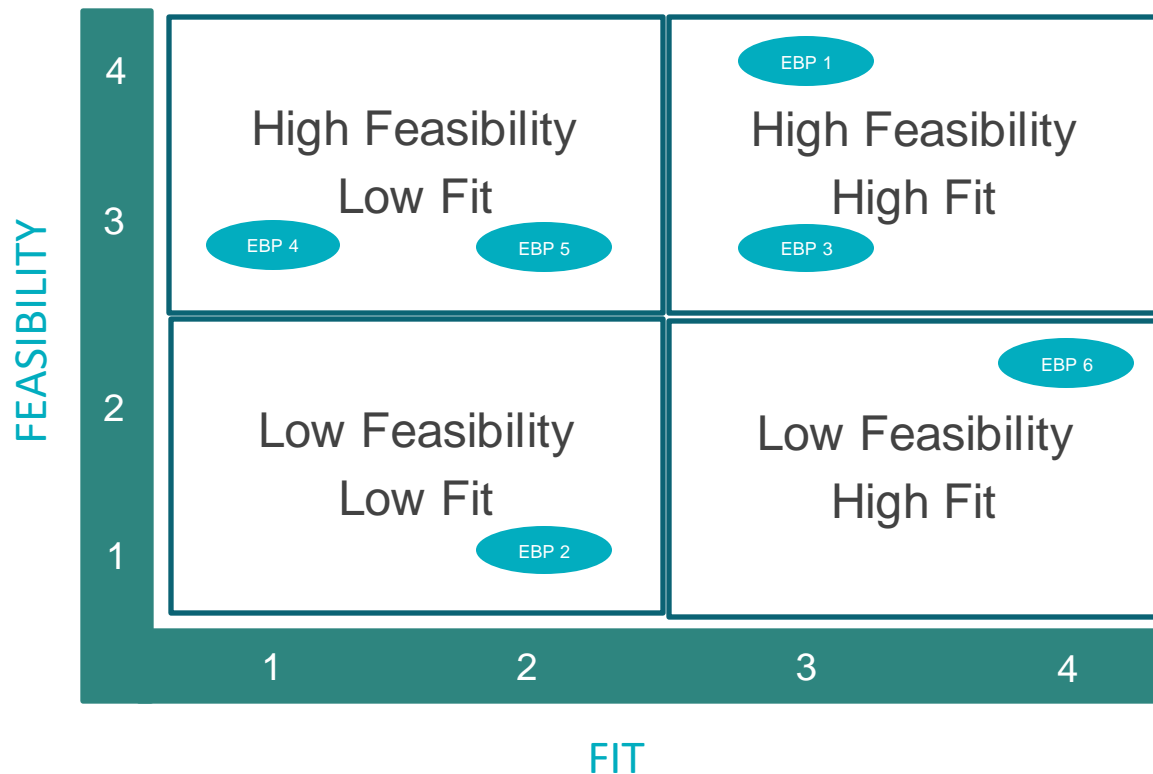
What is the cost of the EBP?

Are current staff qualified to deliver EBP?

Does EBP leverage existing infrastructure?



# Balancing Fit & Feasibility



The **FIT** of the Evidence-Based Program

*and*

the **FEASIBILITY** of the Evidence-Based Program



# POLL

---

***The process and timeline of this workgroup is clear to me.***



Next steps





# Next steps and questions?

---

Next meeting of the Prevention Services Workgroup is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 1-2.30 EST.

We will be focusing on **the candidacy population and their needs**.

***What questions do you have about the upcoming process of selecting EBPs?***

Please enter your questions in the chat.

The DFCS Family First team will review your input and address the most frequent questions before or during the next meeting.

A brown circular icon containing a white question mark, positioned to the right of the text box.

?



# Final POLL and THANK YOU!

---

## FINAL POLL

*I am motivated to continue supporting Georgia's Family First services selection*

**Thank you for your participation today!**