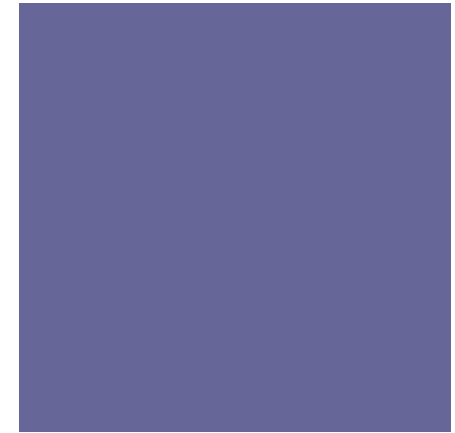


Promoting Infant-Family
Early Childhood Mental
Health in the
San Joaquin Valley

Prepared for:

Fresno County – December 14, 2011



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Professor and Director



This project is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in partnership with the California Department of Mental Health and Department of Developmental Services.



Project Background

- In 2009, First 5 Fresno, First 5 Merced and First 5 Tulare counties funded the Children's Institute to examine our region's current capacity for training professionals in IFECMH.

CCCI Background (2009-2011)



- 1. Assessed the region's readiness and interest in expanding training opportunities.**
- 2. Scanned the environment to identify potential partners and key players.**
- 3. Created opportunities for dialogue about how IFMH training should be structured.**
- 4. Examined strategies for increasing cultural diversity and competency in the workforce.**
- 5. Proposed development of a community based training program as a first step in building a competent IFECMH work force.**

Framework: Infant-Parent Early Childhood Mental Health at the community level is:

A growing field of research and practice devoted to:

- the **promotion** of healthy social and emotional development;
- the **prevention** of mental health problems; and
- the **treatment** of the mental health problems of very young children in the context of their families.

ZERO TO THREE's Infant Mental Health Task Force

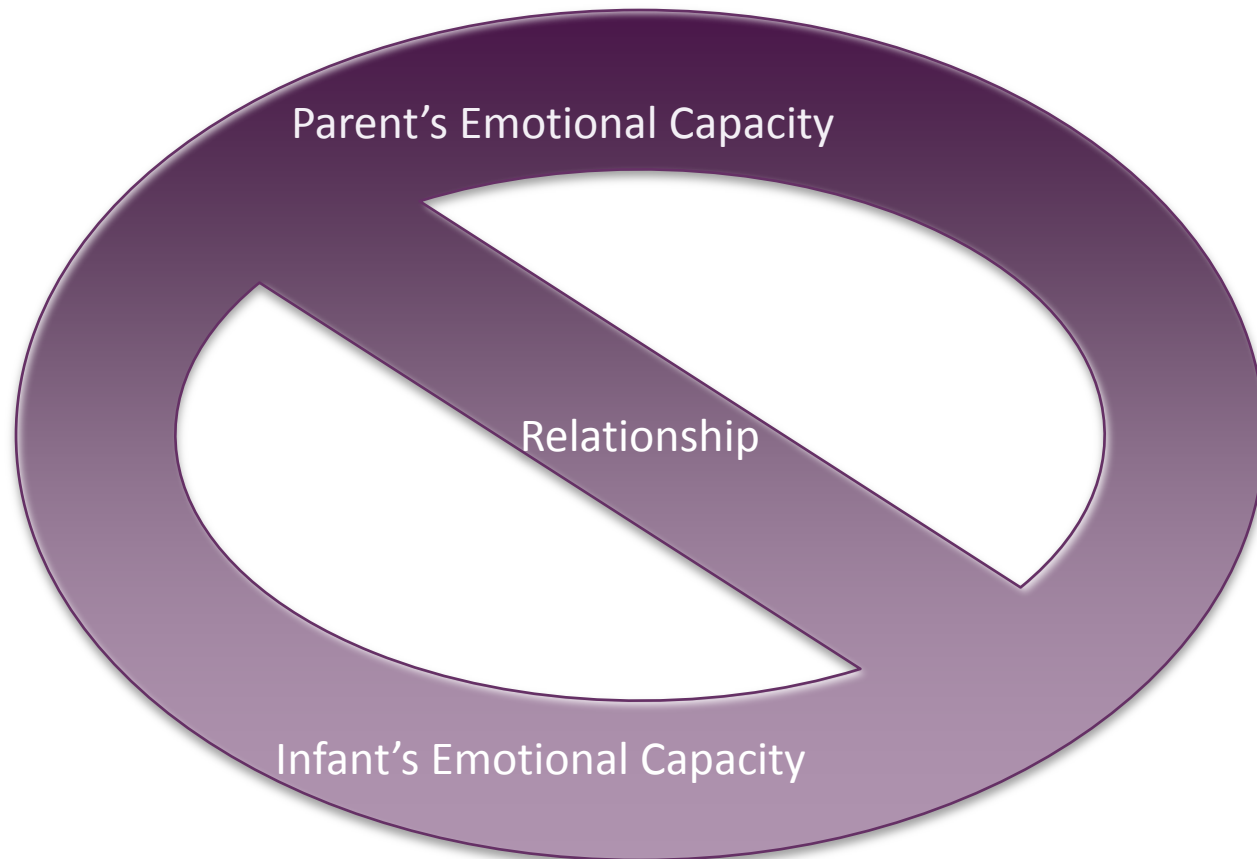
What is Infant – Family Mental Health at the individual level?



Healthy social and emotional development of the **child** refers to:

- “...a child’s capacity to experience, manage, and express a full range of positive and negative emotions; develop close satisfying relationships with others; and actively explore environments and learn.” *Zero to Three, 2009*
- Healthy parent-infant **relationship** refers to:
The parent-infant context within which attachment, nurturance, brain development, mutual regulation and early learning are promoted and enhanced.

The work of Infant-Parent Early Childhood Mental Health “lives in the middle”



Whose scope of practice might include opportunities to promote infant mental health? California's guidelines...

■ Core providers

- Early interventionists, mental health clinicians, nurses, OT's, PT's, audiologists, social workers, pediatricians, child care providers, etc.

■ Infant mental health specialists

- Master's Degree or higher with license or credential in their profession

The SJV IPECMH Training and Systems Enhancement Project

- Funded by MHSA/DDS as a grant to the Central Valley Regional Center, subcontract with the CCCI
- Three year project: one year of planning, two years of implementation beginning in fall, 2012
- Target audience: primarily staff of large public agencies (Public Health, Mental Health, Social Services, County Offices of ED, Regional Centers), but may include others to achieve broad reach and diversity.
- Target participant goal: 160 per year, 320 total

The Foundations Project

- Program content: 1) Relationship-based prevention and intervention strategies for the 0 - 3 child and primary caregiver, 2) Opportunities to reflect on the application of theory through small RP learning pods, 3) Emphases on cultural influences on the parent-child relationship
- Preliminary schedule and frequency: Eight full-day sessions didactic/lecture sessions in the morning, RP pods between sessions
- Further specifics to be defined by the IFMH Needs Assessment and Regional Interagency Training Council, for which we are seeking members.

Desired Project Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Significant number of individuals working with the 0 – 5 population across multiple disciplines and in multiple settings will have a basic, working knowledge of the core principles of infant mental health
- Outcome 2: A number of participants will be inspired to obtain advanced training in IFECMH and/or to pursue state endorsement in IFECMH.
- Outcome 3: Large public agencies across the six/seven counties will find it easier to collaborate across agencies and across county lines in the best interest of children and their families.

Project Activities to Date (August – present)

- Announced the grant via press releases and CCCI eNewsletter
- Individual consultations with key players in the IPMH field in the state, region and nation
- Developed and pilot tested the IFMH Regional Needs Assessment Survey
- Convened regional meetings in Kings/Tulare, Merced/Madera/Mariposa, Kern and Fresno counties
- Administered the needs survey to zero to five professionals (close to 100 completed to date)

Project Work Plan (present – June, 2012)

- Complete updates and links on the project web site
- Analyze the training needs survey results and publish a report of findings
- Convene the Regional Interagency Training Council, present the findings of the assessment as the basis for planning the fall 2012 training
- Develop the training program schedule, clarify training content, identify faculty trainers and secure locations.

Project Work Plan (July – August, 2012)

- Finalize marketing and recruitment materials
- Accept and review participant training applications
- Complete syllabus and materials selection

Fresno County IPECMH

- Training Needs Survey
- Survey Monkey link:
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IFMHTrainingNeedsSurvey>

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