Overview

- How and when do poverty and parenting intersect
- Introduce “Leticia”
- How can Linkages help?
What Explains The Relationship Between Employment, TANF/CalWORKs, and Family Well-Being?

Effects on Parenting: Positive Negative Complicated or Unknown

Behavioral Requirements:
- Teens live at home
- No drug felonies
- Paternity establishment
- Immunizations

Poverty’s Effects on the Material Realities of Parenting
Material Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality # 1

Low Income and Restricted Resources Limit Parents’ Capacities to Meet Children’s Basic Needs
Material Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality # 2

The Dangerous Conditions of Many Poor, Urban Neighborhoods Pose Threats to Children’s Safety and Well-Being
Material Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality # 3

Institutional and Structural Obstacles Restrict Access to Opportunity or Make the Road to Economic Success More Challenging
Material Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality #4

There are Often Persisting Effects of Deprivation Over a Parent’s Lifetime, Effects that Further Limit the Opportunities Open to Them and Their Children
Material Realities of Parenting on Welfare

Reality # 5

The Cumulative Effects of Poverty Conditions Can Influence Children’s Behavior, Development, and Health Issues
Poverty’s Effects on the Psychological Realities of Parenting
Psychological Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality # 1

The Impact of Facing Serious Difficulties in Providing the Necessities of Life for their Children
Psychological Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality # 2

A Sense of the Limited Educational, Cultural, and Material Opportunities That a Parent Can Provide in Conditions of Poverty
Psychological Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality #3

Limited Time and Emotional Availability to Offer Children
Psychological Realities of Parenting On Welfare

Reality #4

Challenges to Protecting Children from Harm
Psychological Realities of Parenting On Welfare
Reality #5

A Limited or Foreshortened Sense of Children’s Futures
Parental Coping in Conditions of Poverty
Who is “Leticia?”

- Single mother
- 4 children
- No job history/no skills
- 8th grade education
- Began AFDC 1982 – breaks in aid due to prison, loss of children
- Previous substance abuse - in recovery
Leticia’s Welfare/Child Welfare Timeline

1982 – 1997

1st Child Born
2nd Child Born
3rd Child Born
4th Child Born

AFDC
No GA, No AFDC
SSI
AFDC & SSI

1982
1987
1996
1997

Leticia In & Out of Prison

(SSI Eligible for Drug Addiction)

(Cut off SSI a few months later)

3 Children Removed, Placed in Foster Care

1997
- Leticia in Prison
- 4th Child Living with Partner & Collecting AFDC, Removed to FC
- (Cut off SSI a few months later)

1998
- Rec’d. Emergency TANF Check
- 4th Child Reunified with Leticia

1999
- Began CalWORKs & some PT work

2000
- Family Cap
- 5th Child Born

2001
- 4th Child Removed, Placed in Foster Care
- 5th Child Removed, Placed with Father
Leticia’s Parenting
As Observed in 2000-2001

Characterized by:

- High warmth, responsiveness, engagement
- Parent and child enjoyed one another
- All basic care and protection needs met
- Leticia relatively secure about herself as a parent
- Leticia worried yet hopeful about Dashon's future
- Leticia coped quite well with parenting in conditions of poverty
Leticia’s Employability in 2000-2001
Barriers to employment

- Inadequate education
- Little work experience
- Inadequate job skills
- Lack of understanding of workplace norms and behaviors
  - Employer discrimination
  - Domestic violence
- Substance abuse
- Mental and physical health problems
  - Inadequate child care
- Lack of reliable transportation
From CalWORKs to Child Welfare
May, 2001

- New baby
- Relapsed
- 4th child removed to non-kin foster care
- Infant sent to father
- Leticia disappeared
Economic Precursors to Child Welfare Involvement

- Work sanctions
- Family Cap
- Increase in expenses related to infant
Family Vulnerabilities

- Known risk factors
  - Single parent
  - Young child
  - Large family
  - Significant time on aid
  - Breaks in aid
    - Birth outcomes
  - Substance abuse
  - Hardships
  - Prior child welfare contact
Would Coordination of CalWORKs And Child Welfare Make A Difference?
Which CalWORKs clients might benefit from a coordinated services approach?

What would such an approach look like?
Which child welfare families might benefit from a coordinated services approach?

What would such an approach look like?
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