

Grandparents
Raising
Grandchildren

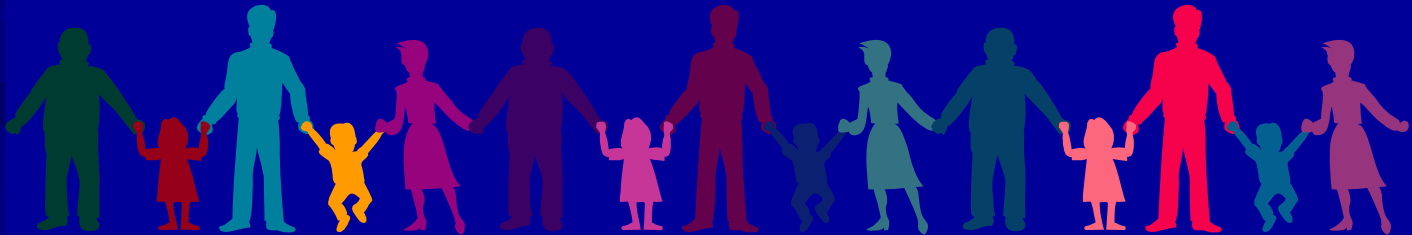
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Building Communities

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Baltimore Intergenerational Housing and Service Initiative

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Working with Intergenerational Families to Increase Safety, Well-Being, and Permanency



Comments from Grandparent Caregivers

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Unique needs of intergenerational families
- ✓ Risk and protective factors associated with child neglect in intergenerational families
- ✓ Principles and intervention strategies for working with intergenerational families to achieve increased safety, well-being, and permanency

Trends

- Significant number and increasing
- Diverse representation but with disproportionate associated risks

Explaining the Trend

A number of factors have contributed to the increase in intergenerational households:

- Increase in drug abuse, especially crack cocaine
- AIDS
- Parental incarceration
- Divorce
- Teen pregnancy
- Rise in single-parent households
- Poverty
- Occurrences of child abuse and neglect

Challenges & Stressors

Grandparents

- African American urban grandparents providing long-term care (Fuller-Thomson et al., 1997).
- More likely to experience poorer physical and mental health (Szinovacz, DeViney, & Atkinson, 1999; Kelley et al., 2000; Minkler & Fuller-Thomson, 1999).
- More isolated from peers and noncustodial grandchildren (Jendrek, 1994).
- Intergenerational strain & stress (Climo et al., 1999; Hayslip & Kaminski, 2005).
- Complex legal situations (Grant, 2000).

Challenges & Stressors, Cont'd

Grandchildren:

- Victims of abuse and neglect.
- Victims of domestic violence.
- Histories of living in unstable and chaotic households.
- Emotional, academic difficulties and/or psychological or physical problems (e.g., Sands & Goldberg-Glen, 2000).

Rewarding

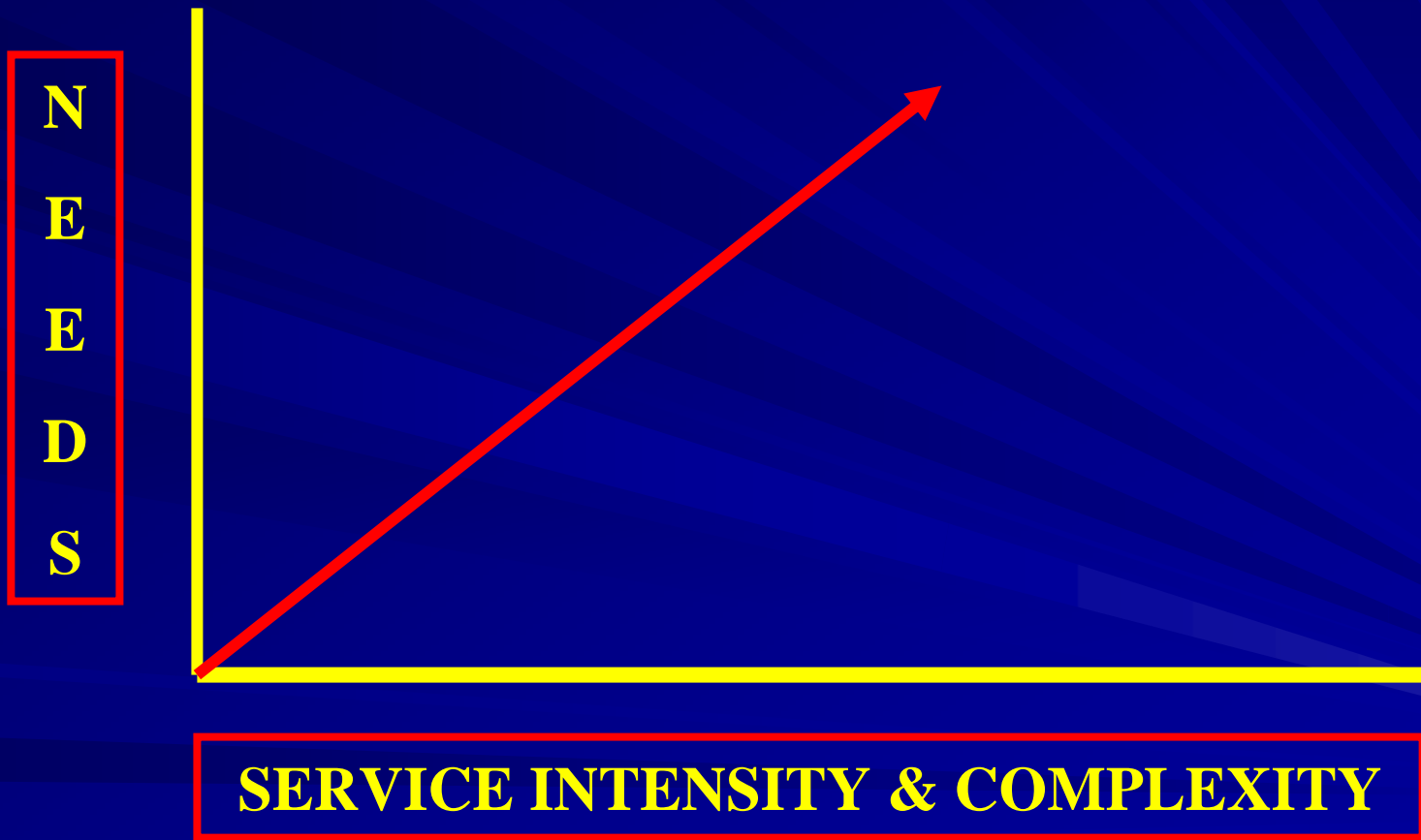
- One survey noted 90% would do it again (Hayslip & Shore, 2000).
- Give a sense of purpose and the value of the family identity and well-being is maintained (Hayslip & Kaminski, 2005).
- Providing love, security, encouragement, and structure (Hayslip & Kaminski, 2005).
- “Safety net” (Hayslip & Kaminski, 2005).

A Population in Need of Services

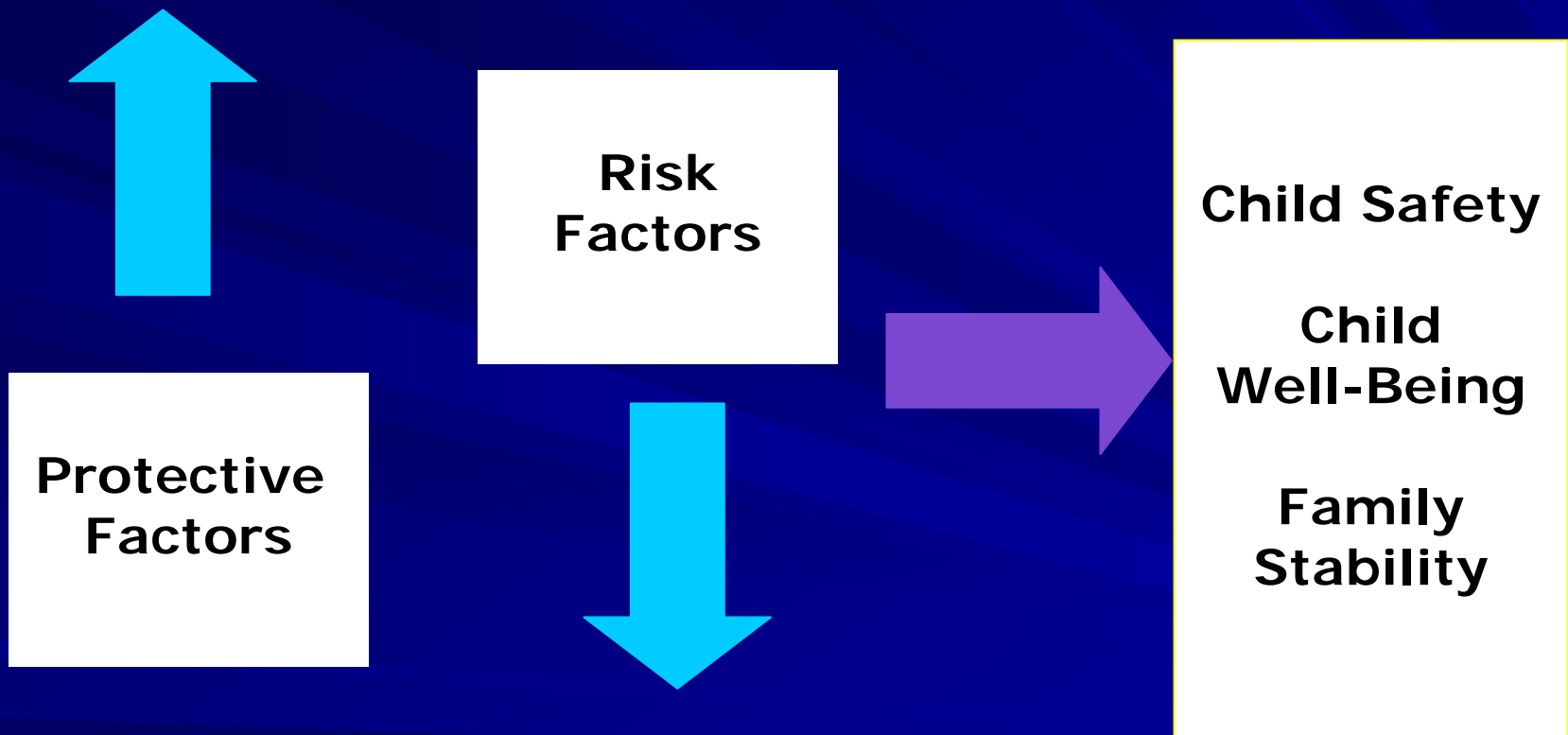
Though their needs are serious and unique, few programs assist intergenerational families. Grandparent caregivers often fall between the cracks of foster care, aging, education, and disability service systems.



Continuum



Family Connections



Intervention Strategies for Working With Intergenerational Families

Increasing Capacity
and
Reducing Risk

Practice Principles

- Ecological developmental framework
- Community outreach
- Family assessment & tailored intervention
- Helping alliance with family
- Empowerment/strengths-based
- Cultural competence
- Outcome-driven service plans

Intergenerational Issues

- Life Stage Issues
- Traumatized Children
- Attachment Challenges
- Intergenerational Conflict
- Legal Issues
- Health Care Issues
- Housing Needs

Intervention Services

- Comprehensive assessment
- Information and referral **linkage**
- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Assistance
- Individualized Outcomes-Based Services
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Advocacy
- Case Management
- Respite
- Interdisciplinary Practice

Grandfamily Housing as a National Conversation

Legacy documentary as catalyst for national attention and legislation to support grandfamilies.



Other Municipality Models

- Boston
- Baton Rouge
- Albany
- Bronx
- Las Vegas



Need in Baltimore

- 82,678 Maryland children under age 18 or 7% of total population live in grandparent maintained homes.
- Baltimore has more than double the state numbers or 18% of kids living in grandparent households.
- District 7 has the third highest percentage of all Congressional Districts in country.

Opportunities for Investors / Philanthropy

- Advocacy
- Building the knowledge base
- Test new models in terms the spectrum of interventions and housing initiatives that will work in the field

Opportunities for Investors / Philanthropy

- Invest
- Provide institutional support
- Spread the word
- Remember the Stories.....

DISCUSSION

Questions?

Comments?



To retrieve a copy of this presentation, please visit:

The Family Connections Web Site

<http://www.family.umaryland.edu>

