

## Early Childhood Mental Health Learning Community

### What is a “Learning Community”

- Terminology borrowed from field of education
- A group of professionals who share practices, data, results
- Continuous improvement
- Results oriented

“The engine of improvement, growth, and renewal in a professional learning community is collective inquiry. People in such a community are relentless in questioning the status quo, seeking new methods, testing those methods, and then reflecting on the results. Not only do they have an acute sense of curiosity and openness to new possibilities, they also recognize that the process of searching for answers is more important than having an answer. Furthermore, their search is a collective one.” *Richard DuFour & Robert Eaker Professional Learning Communities at Work 1998*

## Early Childhood Mental Health Learning Community

- Goal
- Design
- Timeline
- Questions

## Goal

- To advance a statewide early childhood mental health system that is informed by existing practice
- To build consensus among local Smart Start programs as to what are essential structures and functions of an early childhood mental health system.

## Design

- Survey Smart Start communities to identify and record early childhood mental health related programs, policies and practices.
- Code survey results and categorized into similar groups.
- One day learning community to share experiences and provided input on what are essential components and services of a mental health system. Presentations according to groups of similar programs, policies, practices.

## Timeline

Develop Survey	January 30, 2007
Administer Survey	March 31, 2007
Survey Follow Up	April 30, 2007
Information Processing	May 31, 2007
Learning Community Design	June 30, 2007
Learning Community Promotion	August 31, 2007
<b>Learning Community</b>	<b>September 2007</b>
Follow up & Report	December 31, 2007

# QUESTIONS?