Slide 1

Sarasota Early Childhood
Mental Health Partnership

Slide 2

Sarasota Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

VISION
All young children & their families are healthy, happy & thriving in Sarasota County communities

MISSION
To strengthen Sarasota's system of care that supports early childhood mental health & well-being

(diagram labels: emotions, learning, relationships, child, caregiver, family, culture, community investment)

…so what do we mean by early childhood mental health?
- Experiencing & expressing **emotions**
- Forming close, secure **relationships**
- Exploring the environment & **learning**
  - With **primary caregivers**
  - In a **family**
  - In a **cultural context**
  - In a **community**

Slide 3

Sarasota Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

Embracing family voices, cultures, strengths & choices

Prioritizing the role of caregivers

Valuing relationships & a sense of belonging

(diagram labels: linkage / connection, training / education, feedback / evaluation, service expansion / enhancement)

Championing care & safety for all children

Promoting awareness & acceptance of mental health

System of Care Values:
- Child centered and family focused, with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provided.
- Community based, with the locus of services as well as management and decision making responsibility resting at the community level.
- Culturally Competent, with agencies, programs, and services that are responsive to the cultural, racial and ethnic differences of the populations they serve.

Slide 4

Context

Population of Focus

Children birth through age 8 & family members at risk of **disrupted relationships** due to:
-- foster care placement or risk of placement
-- prenatal exposure to alcohol / other substances
-- risk of expulsion or exclusion from an early learning and care setting &/or
-- presence of other environmental stressors (i.e., domestic violence, poverty, caregiver mental illness)

- with DC: 0 – 3R or DSM-IV-TR diagnosis & prognosis that MH challenges will last at least one year
- in need of multi-agency interventions from at least 2 community services