Sarasota Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

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

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

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

...except that...in a community

 Embracing family voices, cultures, strengths & choices
 Championing care & safety for all children
 Prioritizing the role of caregivers
 Valuing relationships & a sense of belonging
 System of Care Values:
 Child centered and family based, with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provided
 Community based, with the focus 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

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 &
- 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