

Early Childhood Outcomes in Utah

Presentation to the USEAP
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Utah Early Childhood Outcomes will--

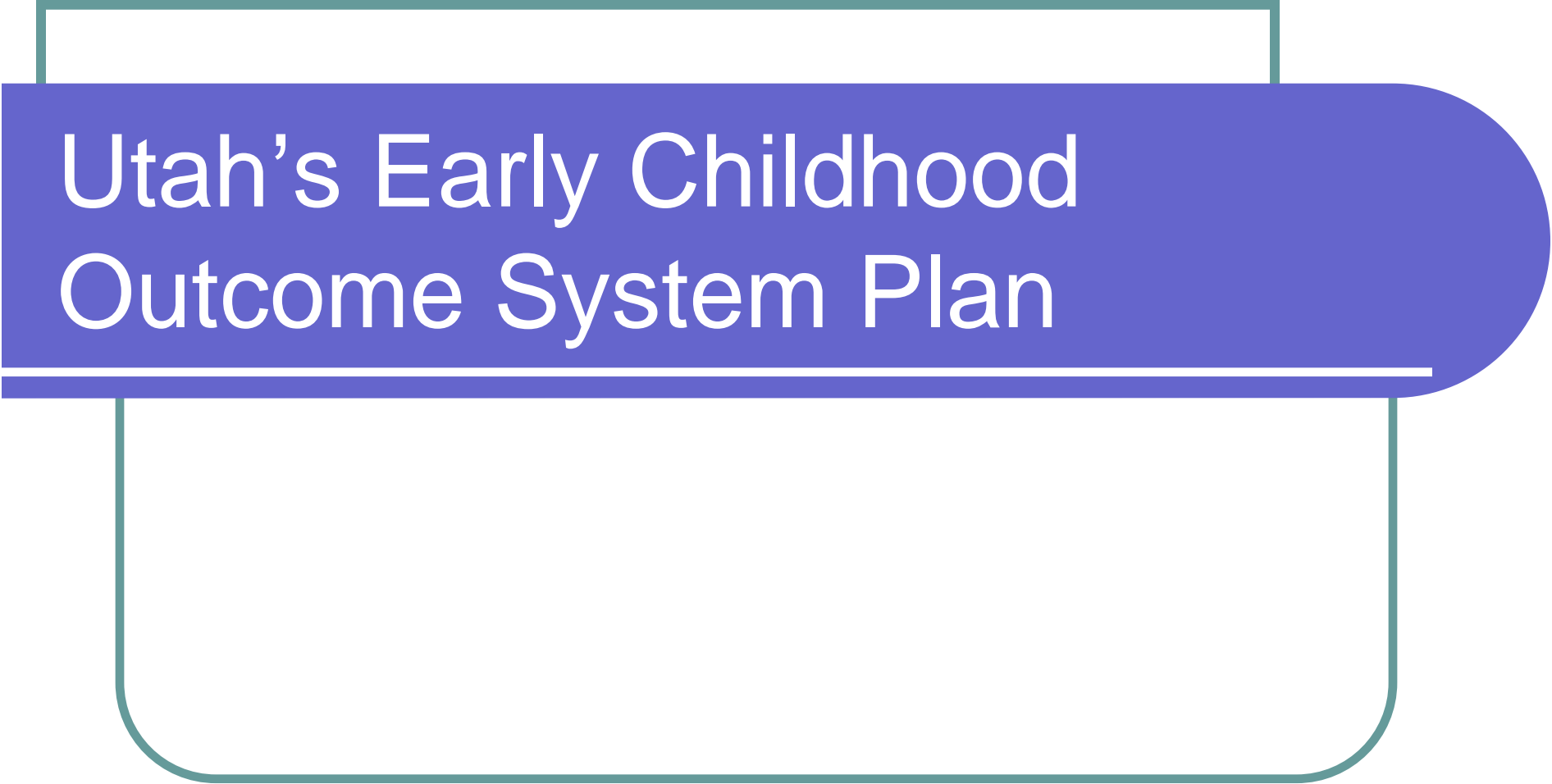
- Establish an outcome system that provides data to:
 - **Meet National reporting requirements (OSEP-APR)**
 - **Improve program services**
 - Gather effectiveness evidence for Utah legislature
 - Monitor and alter interventions

National Reporting Outcomes

- Small set of outcomes (3-5) that can be reported by all states to OSEP
- The Early Childhood Outcome Center is working on these outcomes and they are in a “fast-track” process—*more about this later*

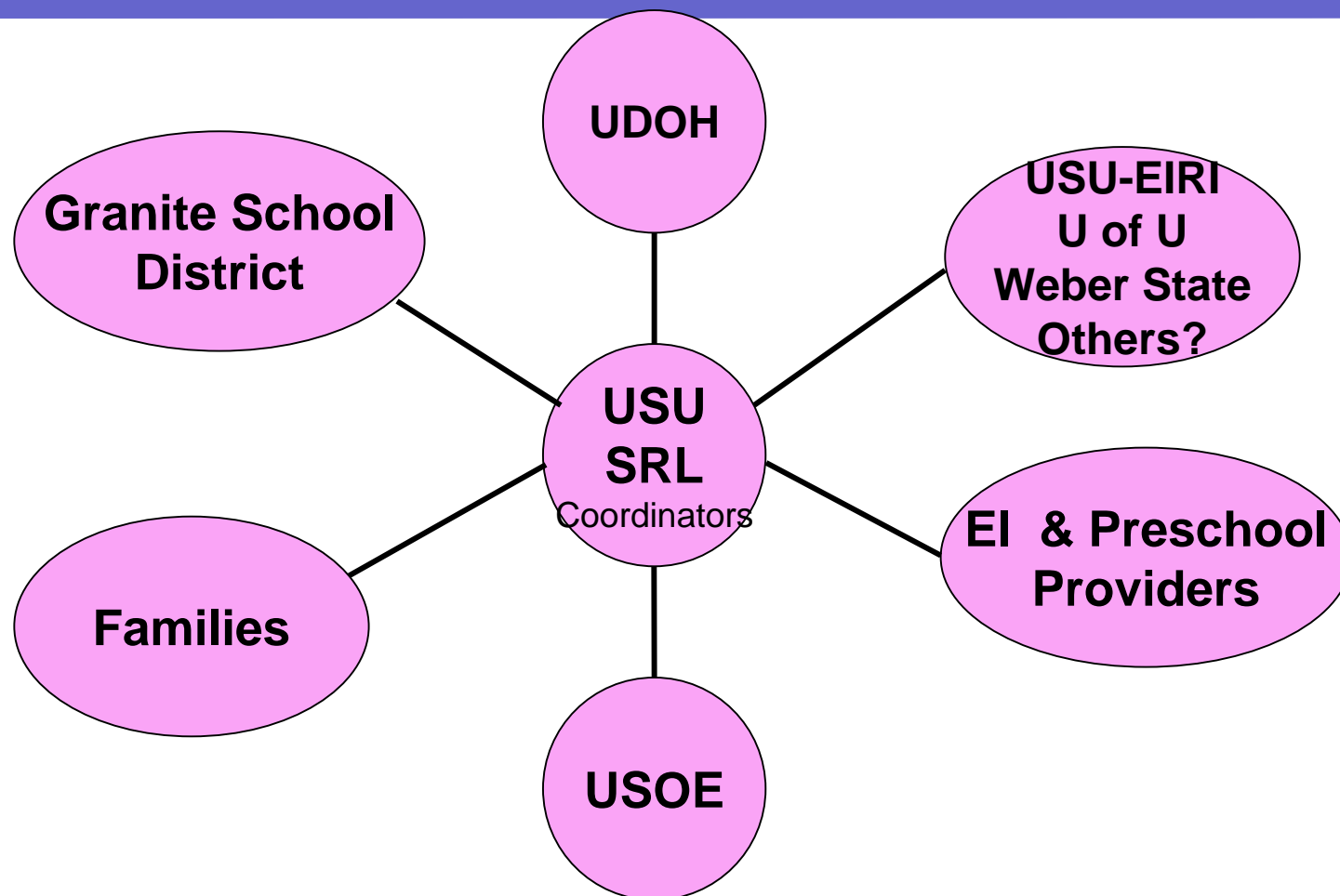
Program Improvement Outcomes

- More comprehensive set of outcomes that is a part of the overall evaluation system that looks at:
 - Services received
 - Procedural issues
 - Satisfaction
 - Child and Family Outcomes



Utah's Early Childhood Outcome System Plan

Partners



Purpose

- Develop and implement child and family outcome measurement systems for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers that can be used in national and state accountability systems.

Utah EC Outcome Goals

- Goal #1: Defining and Measuring Outcome Indicators.
- Goal #2: Validate Part C Data Collection Systems.
- Goal #3: Improve the Tracking and Services of Transitioning Children.

Goal #1: Defining and Measuring Outcome Indicators

Using a Participatory Action Research (PAR) model, this project will develop Part C and Part B 619 preschool outcome indicators, measurement methodology, and evaluation tools

that take into account critical demographic and program service variables for measuring the progress of and adapting the services for our infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities.

Expected Outcomes

1. Individuals who use the *Outcome Indicator Systems*, and/or are impacted by them, will be involved in the development and decision-making process.
2. The Outcome Indicator System measurement design and evaluation tools will be easy to use.
3. USOE and UDOH will consider and approve the outcome indicators and evaluation tools.

Expected Outcomes

4. Outcome indicators will contribute to improving results for children with disabilities.
5. Program Outcomes and Indicators will be used as a framework for verifying, analyzing and reporting data.
6. Validation Reports will be helpful in terms of assessing impact of services.
7. Early Childhood Transition and Child Find systems will operate more efficiently and effectively.

Commitment

Whenever possible we will....

- Use available data
- Collect data through existing mechanisms
- Embed child and family outcomes data in overall evaluation efforts
- Not require that one method of assessment be used
- Minimize the data collection burden
- Collect valid and reliable data

Definitions

Early Childhood Outcome Center
(SRI)

Outcome(s)

- A statement of a measurable condition(s) desired for the population of children* or their families.
- The plan is to establish developmental outcomes for all children.
- **Examples:**
 - *Children demonstrate physical and motor competence*
 - *Families advocate for the services they need*

Outcomes Statements

- Overall vision for children and families
- Not necessarily the same as IFSP/IEP which tend to be more specific
- Global statements of what we are trying to do with children and families

Outcome Areas

- Domains or functional skills?
 - Sub domains, sub functional skills
- *The Early Childhood Outcome Center is recommending functional skills for National Outcome data*

Latest version of national outcome statements from ECOC

1. Children have positive social relationships.
2. Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.
3. Children take action to meet their needs.

Indicator

- A measure or metric that serves to quantify whether the outcome has been obtained.
- **Example:**
 - *Children who have achieved all of their motor goals on the IFSPs/IEPs*

Measure or Measurement

- Measure or measurement The method or tool used to collect the data for the indicator CT
- **Examples:**
 - Survey
 - Assessment (Battelle Developmental Inventory)

Evidence Statements

- **Evidence Statement**—a statement that incorporates a statistic and provides verification as to whether not an outcome has achieved.
- *Percentage of children showing gains in motor skills*

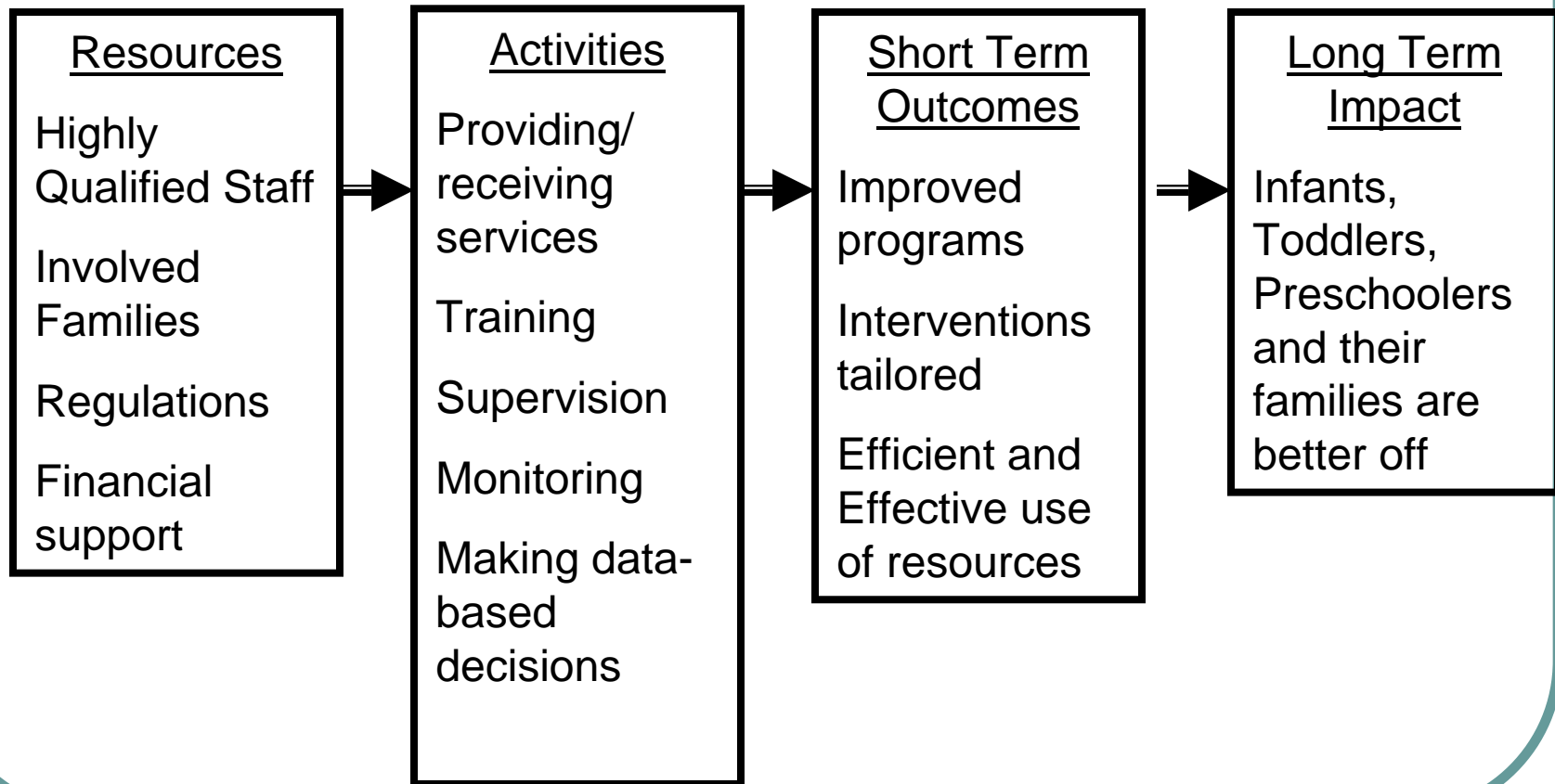
Outcome System

- A process for the regular collection, analysis, reporting, and use of indicator data



Putting the Outcome System in Context

A Comprehensive Evaluation System includes:





Getting Started

Steps in Developing the Outcomes System

1. Clarify overall purpose
2. Identify outcome areas for children and families
3. Develop outcome statements
4. Formulate evidence statements
5. Identify measurement approaches
6. Identify approaches for analyzing the data

Steps in Developing the Outcomes System (continued)

7. Build infrastructure for collecting and reporting
8. Collect data
9. Analyze data
10. Report data
11. Refine the approach

Step One: Stakeholders

- Identify key stakeholders
- Establish a process for their involvement
- Decide how to best get input from families
- *Please submit suggestions of people or organizations that we should include.*

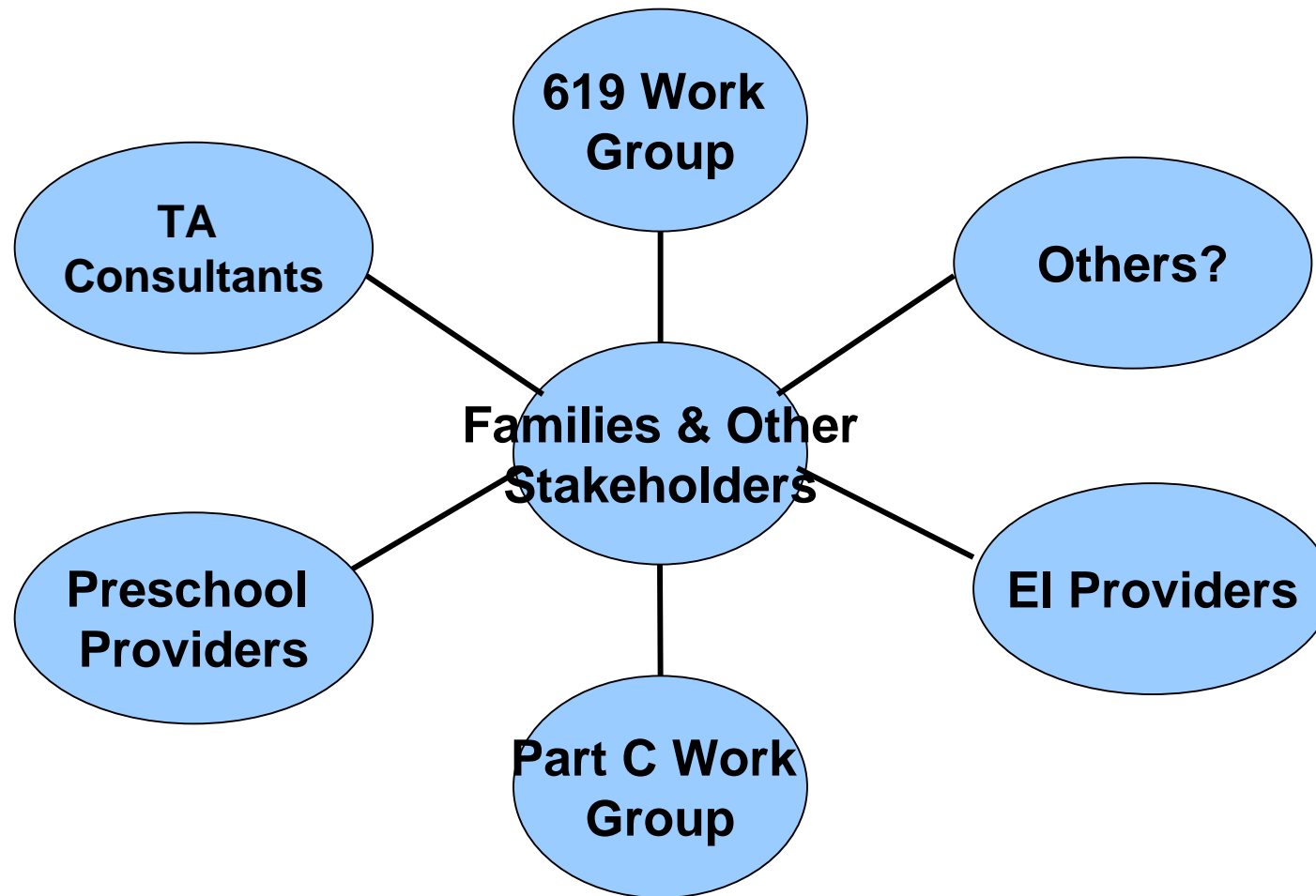
Activities

- Communication
- Consensus building
- Collaboration
- Technical assistance based on research

Challenges

- Getting all partners involved
- Establishing a common understanding of the design and implementation of the system

Structure for gathering input



First Steps

Goal #1: Develop Child Outcome Indicators for Part B 619 Program and Develop Child and Family Outcome Indicators for Part C Program.

Objective 1.1 Establish workgroups and feedback stakeholder groups

- Workgroup will contribute expertise
- Stakeholders will provide helpful and constructive feedback
- Workgroup members, stakeholders, USOE and UPDC personnel will share the importance of outcome indicators and outcomes vision and be inspired to participate and contribute to the development and testing process

- List of members
- Meeting minutes
- Contact log
- =====
- Document review
- Informal interviews

First Steps

Goal #1: Develop Child Outcome Indicators for Part B 619 Program and Develop Child and Family Outcome Indicators for Part C Program.

1.2 Review existing outcome indicators and associated documents

- High quality methods and materials
- Useful products and services
- Time will be saved in developing Utah outcome indicators

Recommendations

Comparison Document

Document review

Informal interviews

Kick Off Meeting

Please see our website for highlights from our Outcomes Kick-Off Meeting held on January 19, 2005 where Kathleen Heebeler from the National Early Childhood Outcome Center presented their latest work on outcomes

www.utahecoutcomes.org

and

More information to come

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