RBA Report to the CT General Assembly Appropriations Committee

First Words, First Steps:
CT's Infant – Toddler Systems Framework

February 7, 2008

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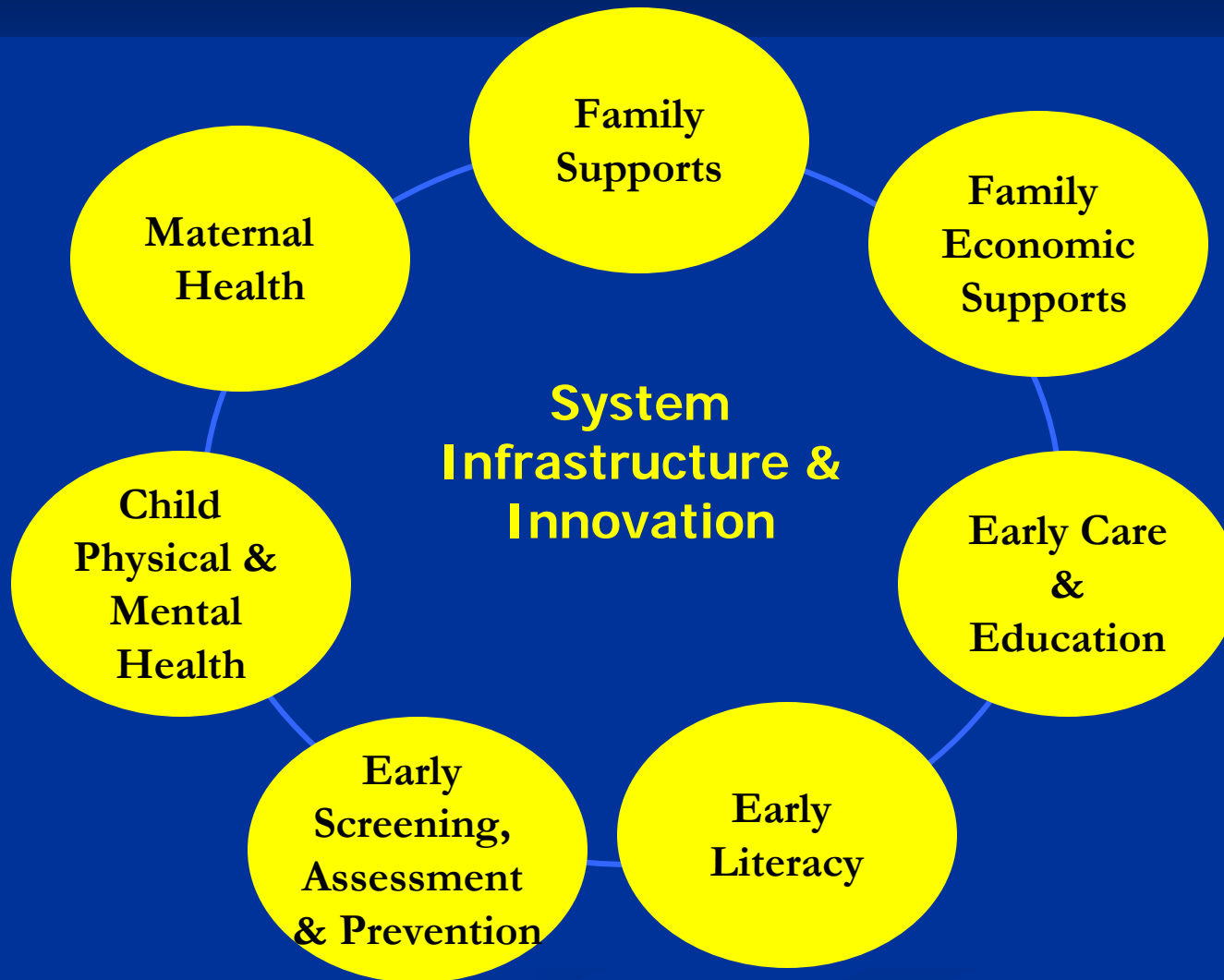
CT Commission on Children

Development of the Infant-Toddler Systems Framework

- Development of the framework was one of the Cabinet's *Ready by Five, Fine by Nine* top ten priorities   (July 2006)

- Anchored in "A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood" published by the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2007)

- Constructed using Results-Based Accountability (RBA) principles with special attention to necessary data development

- Effort led Cabinet members, the Commission on Children and the CT Department of Social Services

Development of the Infant-Toddler Systems Framework

- Review and development by nearly 100 participants over an 18-month period

- Public input obtained from 450 citizens at 10 Local Listening Forums in the later fall of 2007

- 12 Essential Findings and core service/system concepts adopted at January 14, 20008 Cabinet meeting

- Review of Professor Jack Shonkoff, Harvard Center on the Development Child: "This is one of the best birth to three framework I've seen across the nation" (January 15, 2008)

- Released at the Governor's Early Childhood Summit: Investing in the First Thousand Days

First Words, First Steps: Infant-Toddler Core Service and Systems Components

Systems Infrastructure and Innovation Components

- DSS, DPH, SDE, DCF, CTF develop MOA's for service delivery & model for "master contracts"

- Cabinet establishes a Collaborative Mgt Team & Project Manager   to oversee I/T next steps

- Data system development

- Set aside 10% federal funds for B-3 services

- Within MH system of care, implement early childhood system

- Cabinet and SDE funded local planning to include literacy strategies

- Establish family support continuum

- Create regional/ community "hubs" as service model

Next Steps

- Cabinet to establish a process to prioritize the 30+ service recommendations (February and March, 2008)

- Examine priorities according to "no-cost and low-cost" options as well as options with a high predicted short-term ROI

- Develop data and research agenda items

- Refer top priorities to the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council for fiscal analyses and cost-modeling

- Council returns analyses to Cabinet for action by the early fall, 2008

Firs Words, First Steps: Proposed Infant-Toddler Systems Framework