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Meeting summary for Bright Spots Community-Family Centered Intervention - Intervention and Plans for Prevention (05/01/2025)

Nurturing Bright Spots in Child Safety

In the meeting, Harold discussed the primary purpose of the session, which was to nurture the bright spots and share ideas. He mentioned that the topic was chosen because it was the area where the most people wanted to collaborate. He also shared that they have 50 bright spots now and are reaching out to more individuals. Barb asked about the practitioners involved, and Harold mentioned that the largest group are university folks, followed by parents, teachers, school administrators, policy writers, and school psychologists. He also mentioned that they are looking for more parents and people who are actively enhancing the safety of kids. Janet shared that they have a global coalition of parents who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing and have created an international statement for child well-being and safety. The conversation ended with a discussion about the recording of the session.

Protective Factors for Children With Disabilities

Harold discussed the importance of establishing protective factors for children with disabilities, particularly during early intervention. He emphasized the need for parents to be aware of their children's vulnerabilities and to have specific knowledge and skills to keep them safe. Harold also introduced the concept of a "circle of trust," where trusted adults agree to follow family rules and interact with the child in a safe and appropriate manner. He suggested that parents should identify these trusted adults and ensure they are aware of and agree to follow the family rules. Additionally, Harold proposed two new family rules: daily check-ins to monitor the child's emotional well-being and a ban on keeping secrets. He encouraged open discussion on these strategies and emphasized the importance of respecting parents' existing knowledge and practices.

Child Abuse Prevention and Community Support

Janet discussed the importance of child abuse and neglect prevention, sharing her personal experience of how the organization's commitment to this issue helped her family. She emphasized

the need for knowledge and understanding to respond appropriately to disclosures of abuse. Janet also highlighted the importance of prevention and the role of the community in supporting families. The conversation ended with an open discussion, inviting participants to share their experiences and strategies for keeping children safe.

Overcoming Guilt in Child Abuse Cases

The meeting focused on the challenges parents face when dealing with child abuse. Joan highlighted the difficulty of communicating with children who may not react or show emotions. Barb raised a question about helping parents overcome guilt, which Ruby and Harold addressed. Ruby emphasized the importance of acknowledging the goodness in parents and helping them see their role as protectors. The discussion also touched on the need for parents to be ready to face the reality of abuse and the importance of putting the safety and well-being of young people ahead of anyone's embarrassment. The conversation ended with Caroline sharing her personal experience of generational trauma and the challenges it poses for parents in responding to child abuse.

Addressing Trauma in Teacher Preparation

In the meeting, Caroline shared her personal experience of dealing with a traumatic situation involving her daughter, emphasizing the importance of support and information for families. Harold discussed the [VOOK Club project led by Cresta Brinkman](#), which aims to find books to discuss taboo topics with children. Cresta then explained the Book Club, a virtual book club that started years ago to amass a collection of books to help with various topics, including trauma-informed care. She also mentioned the need for more content for older kids and the possibility of using podcasts. Mickie asked about the thought process behind reaching out to Harold for support, and Caroline discussed the importance of addressing the topic in teacher preparation programs. The conversation ended with plans to post all information on the Bright Spot website and to continue the discussion in future meetings.