

**UNDERSTANDING, PREVENTING,
AND TREATING PROBLEM
BEHAVIORS AMONG REFUGEES &
IMMIGRANT YOUTH**

NORTH DAKOTA FAMILY BASED SERVICES CONFERENCE

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OBJECTIVES

1

We will learn about and understand common barriers to working with refugee and immigrant families

2

We will be able to identify the opportunities and challenges for refugee and immigrant parents

3

We will examine strategies that have shown success

4

We will imagine development of supports for the parents and families of refugee and immigrant children

RESETTLEMENT: MIXED FEELINGS

Opportunities:

- Freedom
- Safety
- Education
- Employment

Threats:

- Potential for intergenerational tension
- Family role changes
- Cultural conflicts

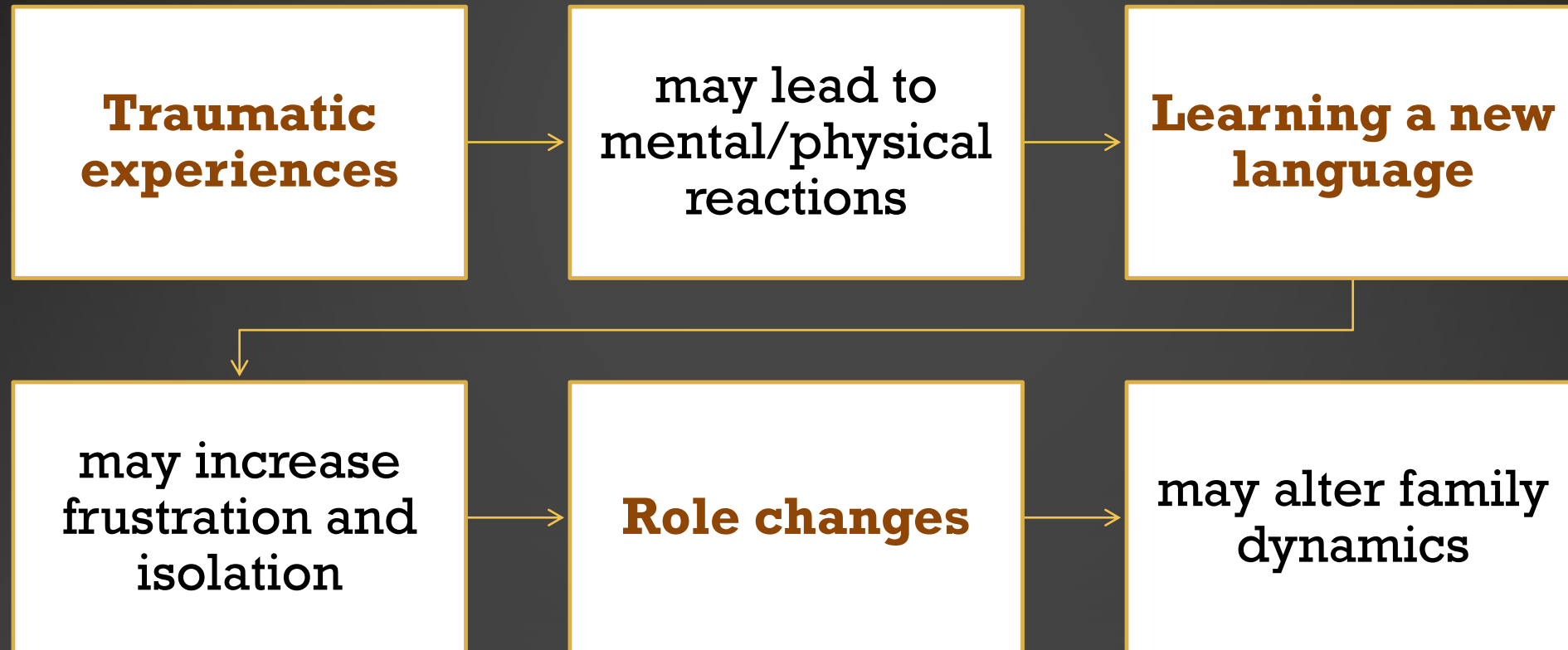
REFUGEE PARENTS-CHALLENGES

Social supports, such as family and friends

Communal supports, such as knowledge of how schools and child-minding arrangements typically work

Shared values, regarding discipline, gender roles, deference to elders, and responsibilities to family

REFUGEE PARENTS-CHALLENGES



BARRIERS TO WORKING WITH REFUGEE FAMILIES

Language and literacy needs

Conflicting cultural or religious values (e.g: gender roles, discipline practices)

Cultural attitudes toward seeking help (for e.g: shameful or a weakness)

Varied learning styles

BARRIERS TO WORKING WITH REFUGEE FAMILIES

Topics of interest to parents

Work schedules, transportation, childcare needs

Western deficit model approaches

Rapport between providers and parent/client

WHAT HAS WORKED

Parents are
involved in all
program phases

Respected
community leaders
are engaged at the
beginning of the
project

Potential barriers to
attendance are
addressed

WHAT HAS WORKED

Concrete and experiential methods are used

Parental authority is reinforced

Program focus on skills that strengthen the parent–child bond and decrease the “acculturation” gap

DEVELOPING SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES/YOUTH

Clarify

- Clarify goals and capacity

Research

- Research the needs and resources of your resources

Consider

- Consider the total context of refugees' lives

Recruit and train

- Recruit and train staff for cultural competency

DEVELOPING SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES/YOUTH

Collaborate

- Collaborate with established organizations

Make

- Make schools essential partners

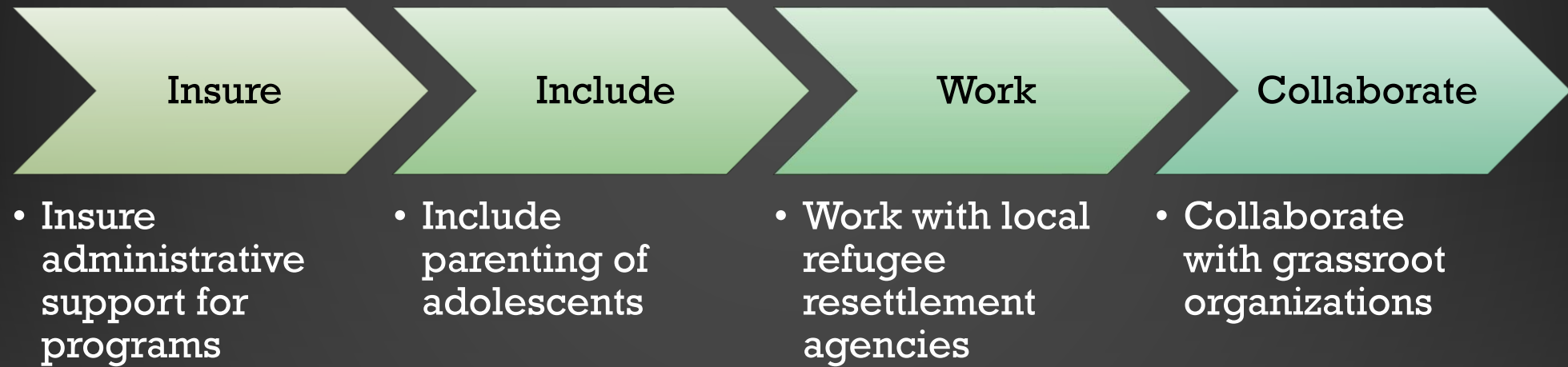
Include

- Include evaluation from the beginning

Prepare

- Prepare for advocacy

DEVELOPING SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES/YOUTH



**ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT MAY
BE NEEDED**

Single parents

Pre-literate parents

Elderly refugees caring for children
or youth

Families with adolescents

Children separated from their
parents



**600 MEN FROM ALL WALKS
OF LIFE MADE HISTORY**

Let's Stay Connected...

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Thank You