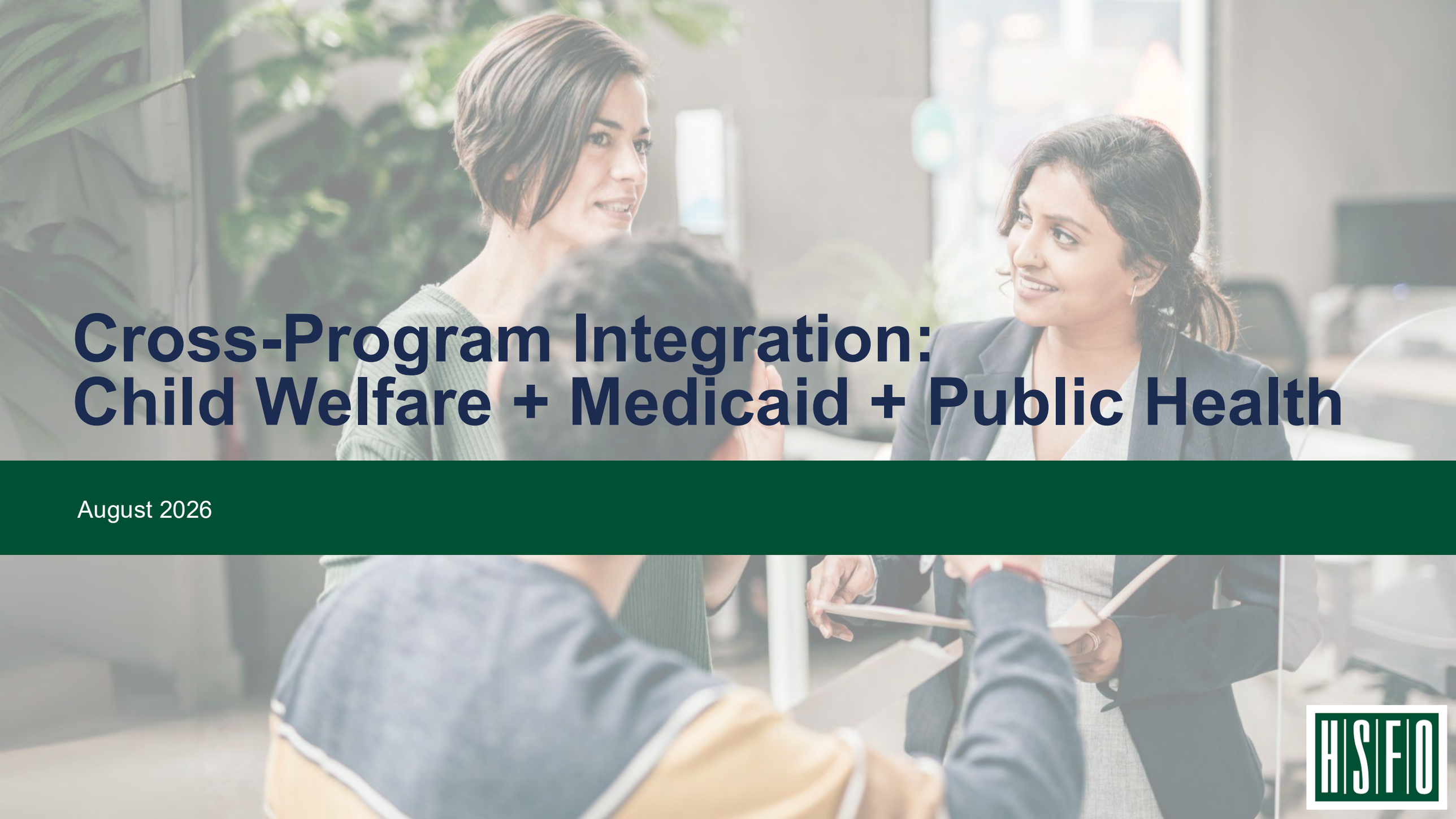

Cross-Program Integration: Child Welfare + Medicaid + Public Health

August 2026

Meet Your Presenters

Dr. Alex Mayer

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PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

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Youth VILLAGES
The force for families

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PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

What You Will Leave With

01 —— Why care about cross-program integration

02 —— Increase self-awareness

03 —— Practice visible moves

04 —— Choose a growth priority

Why Care About Cross-Program Integration?

Integration directly impacts:

- Claiming
- Cost avoidance
- Budget predictability
- Provider capacity
- Audit risk
- Outcomes for families

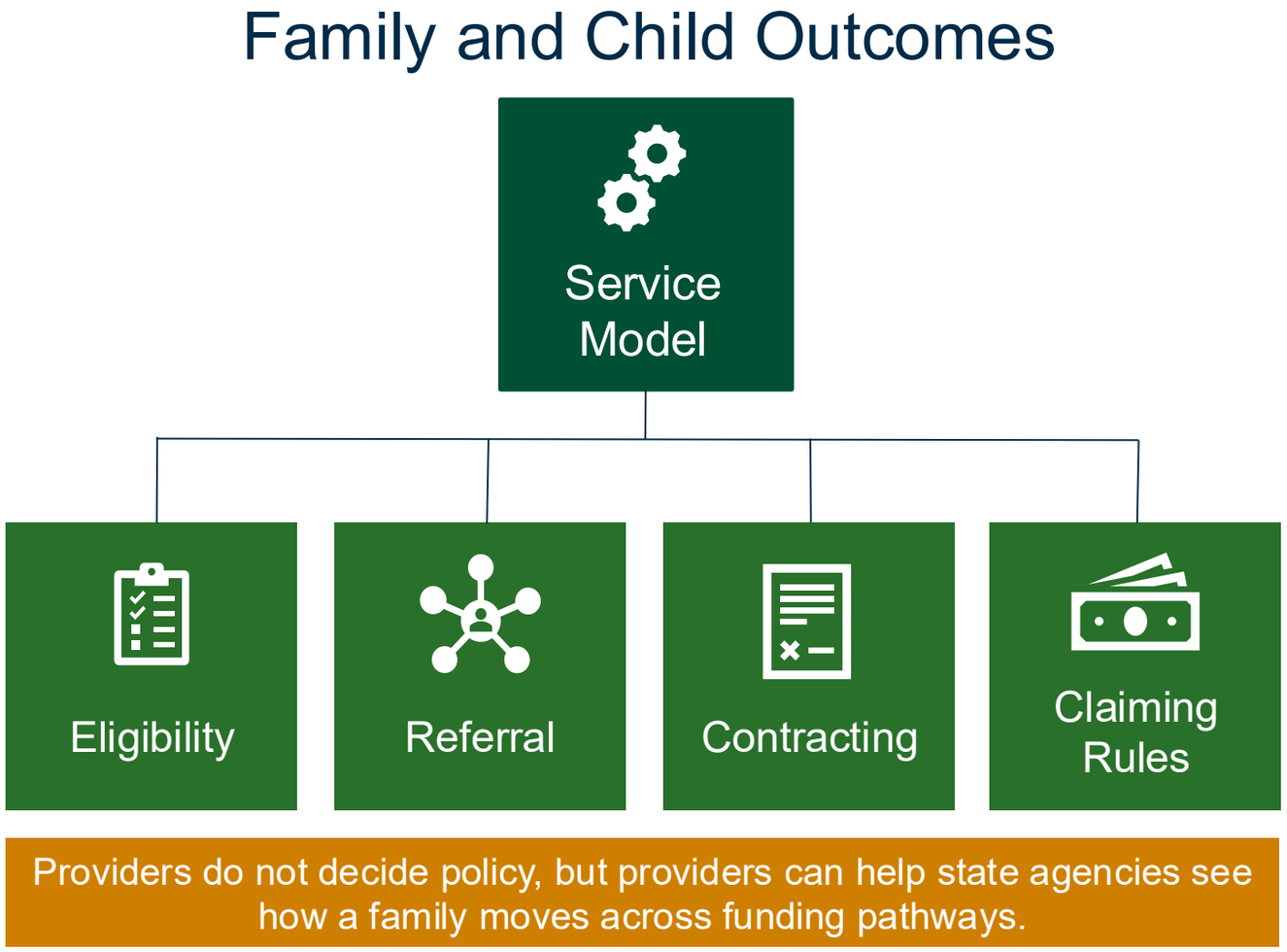
Medicaid pays for medically necessary health and behavioral health services; child welfare focuses on safety, permanency, and well-being; public health focuses on population-level prevention and community conditions; human services programs often address economic stability, food, childcare, and family supports.

Five Connection Points

- Populations
- Outcomes
- Providers
- Data
- Funding Strategy

Let’s Take a Closer Look

Earlier intervention through the right funding stream



The Provider Perspective

Provider and lived expert engagement strengthens system coordination

Providers see gaps first

Providers can help with barriers if they understand the problem

Sharing lived experience and recommendations makes for more family-centered processes

Let’s Take a Closer Look

Public health adds the population lens

- Identify risk patterns
- Community conditions
- Prevention opportunities
- Geographic disparities

Let’s Take a Closer Look

Medicaid as an upstream partner for child welfare outcomes

DISCUSSION:

Child Serious Emotional Disorder waiver services or similar Medicaid authorities supporting children before or during child welfare involvement.

Operational Integration

Where Collaboration Becomes Real

Referral pathways, eligibility screening, provider contracting, care coordination, data sharing, shared performance measures, and escalation routes.

What is one workflow change that could reduce burden on families and providers within 90 days?

Providers and families can reveal access barriers, rural gaps, workforce constraints, transportation issues, and service design problems.

Budgeting and Claiming: Braid with Discipline

Align

Braiding is NOT
“use any dollar anywhere.”

- Allowable costs
- Eligibility documentation
- Payer of last resort rules
- Cost allocation
- Claiming controls
- Procurement language
- Provider reporting

Shared Data and Shared Accountability

Linked Data

The goal is usable decision support

- Needs assessment
- Service gap analysis
- Outcome monitoring
- Equity review
- Provider performance
- Reinvestment decisions

Take Action

Make a commitment

Pick one shared population, pick one shared outcome, and pick one funding or operational barrier to solve in the next 90 days.

Identify one cross-program barrier and
one finance lever your team can influence.

Thank You

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