

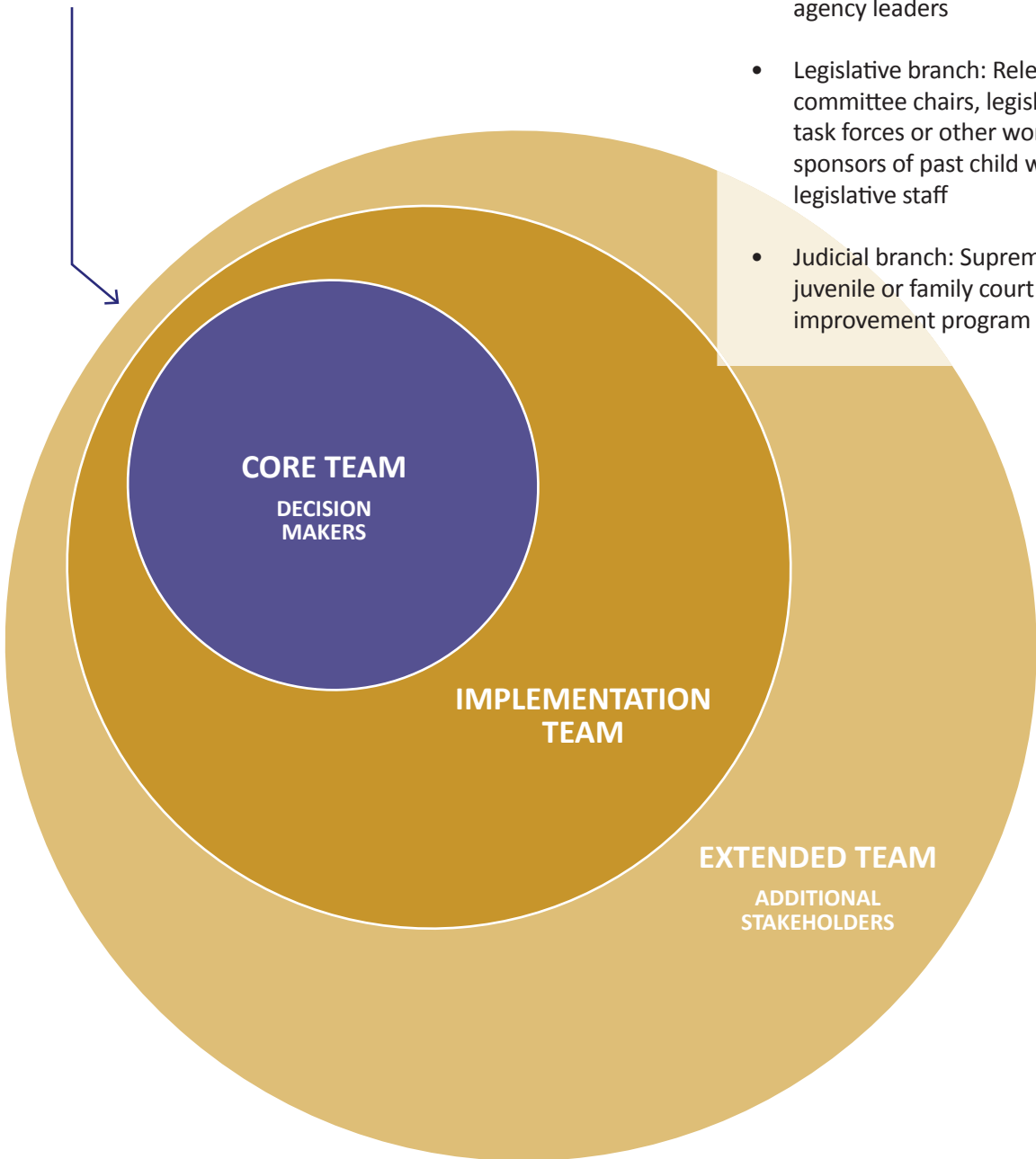
Collaborative structure

A successful three-branch approach involves three groups: a core team of decision makers, an implementation team and an extended team of additional stakeholders. Each team has critical responsibilities in developing, implementing and overseeing a coordinated strategic plan.

THE CORE TEAM

WHO?

- Executive branch: Governor’s office, state agency leaders
- Legislative branch: Relevant legislative committee chairs, legislators engaged in task forces or other work on child welfare, sponsors of past child welfare legislation, legislative staff
- Judicial branch: Supreme court justices, juvenile or family court judges, court improvement program representatives





THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

WHO?

- Additional leaders from the executive branch (e.g., human services, health, education, criminal justice, public safety, workforce and behavioral health).
- Additional legislators, including members of appropriations, health, education, human services and other committees; legislative staff; and legislators who may be foster parents, former foster youth, adoptive parents, social workers, law enforcement or medical professionals.
- Additional judicial branch representatives.
- City and county officials.
- Tribal child welfare leaders, tribal council representatives.
- Birth families, foster youth or alumni, kinship care providers and foster parents.
- Private-sector service providers.
- Community-based organizations (CBOs).

THE EXTENDED TEAM

WHO?

- Advocates and constituents (when appropriate).
- Supervisors and staff representing the frontline perspective.
- Business leaders and other private-sector representatives.
- Legal representatives of children, parents and families.
- Representatives of the faith community.
- Child and family policy or research organizations.
- Representatives of higher education and workforce training programs.
- Media representatives.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Identify shared goals and outcomes for children, families, communities or the child welfare system.
- Develop a coordinated strategic plan to achieve a common goal.
- Participate in and monitor implementation of the strategic plan.
- Provide leadership and encouragement and model three-branch collaboration for all involved in implementing the plan.
- Periodically assess progress, address challenges and communicate needs with other branches.
- Educate peers on the mission, purpose and goals of the approach.
- Recruit leaders from the branch to participate in the implementation team and extended team.
- Lead work groups to address specific elements of the strategic plan.
- Develop a plan to communicate the vision, mission and goals of the plan to the broader community.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

- Meet regularly (monthly or biweekly) in person or virtually.
- Communicate regularly by email or phone.
- Participate in regular, issue-specific work group meetings.



THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Assist with development of the strategic plan.
- Assist with implementation of the strategic plan.
- Participate in issue-specific work groups.
- Demonstrate the value and behaviors of a three-branch approach to the broader group.
- Help communicate the vision, mission and goals of the strategic plan to the broader community.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

- Meet regularly (quarterly, bimonthly) in person or virtually.
- Communicate regularly by email or phone.
- Participate in regular, issue-specific work group meetings.

THE EXTENDED TEAM

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Build broad understanding of and buy-in for the strategic plan.
- Provide perspective on the strategic plan and its implementation.
- Help communicate the vision, mission and goals of the strategic plan to the broader community.
- Help implement the strategic plan.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

- Convene at the outset of the initiative, and then as needed to build broad buy-in for the strategic plan.
- Participate in issue-specific work group meetings.
- Communicate regularly by email or phone.