

#### Additional File 4: Key Project Definitions and Vision

Topic/Concept	Definition
Child Maltreatment	Includes not only physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, but also medical, physical, and emotional neglect, as well as “anything that harms the well-being of the child.”
Child Maltreatment Prevention	Child maltreatment prevention was defined via both specific actions and general statements reflective of an overall ethos. We kept these as a list of statements to reflect the breadth of prevention. The broadest statement, reflecting universal prevention, stated that prevention entailed activities that are “as far upstream as we can go...before the baby is even in the water,” referring to the common analogy of upstream interventions that intervene to prevent adverse outcomes. Similarly, GMB partners spoke about ensuring that families had “access to everything” and the need for family engagement, defined as a sense of trust between families and family serving organizations, as well as the development of crisis and peer support networks. Partners also focused on well-being promotion and the insurance of protective factors. Additional File 5 shows a depiction of the group’s prevention components. The range of these components shows that partners believed in the importance of understanding prevention along a continuum, which aligns with prevention science literature.
Project Vision	Systems strengthening in this space means creating systems that respond to <i>all</i> children’s and families’ needs and creating positive environments for children to thrive. We will focus on ensuring that children are able to live in an environment that fosters their well-being and does not put them in danger of witnessing or experiencing violence or neglect, and that each child and parent in North Carolina is connected to optimal support systems.
Systems	GMB partner definitions of systems showed how readily they thought about core concepts in systems thinking and how these concepts were often a part of discussions in their everyday practice. They often included a focus on either the actions or structure of systems. Structures were most often defined by describing either collaborations or silos. Participants highlighted the purposeful and interconnected nature of a system, stating that a system is “a lot of complex issues and or organizations working on issues... to [solve] a social problem.” Other participants noted the ambiguity of systems and the multiplicity of actors, stating “I don’t know if there is <i>a</i> system.” We utilized the operationalized definition from Meadows (2008) for systems as follows: A set of elements or parts that is coherently organized and inter-connected in a pattern or structure that produces a characteristic set of behaviors, often classified as its “function” or “purpose.”