OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT EXAMPLE

Work First (North Carolina)
Cash assistance for two years but individuals must work – 200% of fed poverty level
  1) diversion – up to 3 months cash assistance, childcare, food stamps and Medicaid
  2) work – 24 months of assistance only
  3) retention – increased savings allowance, car allowance and income limit for assisted child care
counties submitted block grant proposals as standard (state rules) or electing (more flexibility in rules)
welfare rolls drop from 113,485 in 1995 to 47,349 in 2000

GOALS:
  1) Get families off welfare rolls and working
  2) Reduce expenditures for welfare (?)

DSS – CABARRUS COUNTY (late 90’s)
  ❖ Pop. 131,063, 53.8% in workforce, per cap $24,000
  ❖ 28% at poverty level, 4% on food stamps, 15.7% minority population
  ❖ 5 county commissioners – conservative – limited tax increases/spending
  ❖ DSS run by 5 member board reporting to commissioners, director
  ❖ History of welfare reform dating from 1995 (Work Over Welfare)
  ❖ County chose standard status with waivers

Pay for Performance – must work # hours to receive welfare

OUTCOME MEASURES /TARGETS:
  1) Reduce welfare caseload – 15%
  2) Adults working – 74%
  3) Stay off welfare after working – 85%
  4) All parent participation – 35%
  5) Two parent participation – 90%
  6) Decrease diversion assistance – 6%
  7) Increase child support collection – 10%
  8) Give all children in protective services a safety plan – 100%

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: participant attitudes improved

METHODS
  ▪ Child care and public transportation
  ▪ Substance abuse counseling
  ▪ Grant diversion – money given to employer and matched by salary
  ▪ Job placement/classes through Economic Security Commission
  ▪ Follow-up care for working adults/children

OTHER CHANGES:
  ❖ Reduction in paperwork, single application for multiple services
  ❖ Team approach for multiple services
Public/private partnerships:
Community college, public schools, housing
authority, Vocational Rehab, Mental Health Dept.,
Employment Security Commission, churches,
chamber of commerce

PROBLEMS:
With emphasis on work/tech training and continuing ed neglected
Downturn in economy affects new low wage workers most