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Innovations for people and systems impacted by childhood trauma

Building a New Way Together: A Call to Action

Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer, LISW, APSW

CEO, Alia

Our babies are vulnerable, and *they KNOW it*

This need for connection and belonging is a lifelong need and necessary for humans to thrive.

#1 Most Stressful Event

"The number one most stressful event for a child

is the death of a parent.

Number two is to be separated from a parent."

-Norma Ginther

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When Mom (or primary caregiver) is okay, I'm okay.

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We keep children physically safe

here, then there, then there…

But where do I BELONG? Who has my back, no matter what?

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Archaic
About PROPERTY

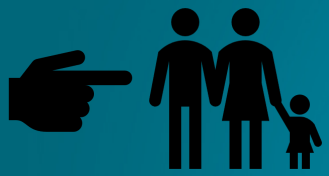
Inhumane
About PLACE

Child-saving
About
INDIVIDUALS

Instead…
About THEIR FAMILIES and COMMUNITIES

When you know better, you must do better.

Moral dilemma



Families struggle

Insufficient resources to support them,
cultural need to punish,
focus only on physical safety

We sever relational connections resulting in a primal wound

Insufficient resources to search for already-trusted adults

A new family is created, or
many people or families
are involved, and
no family is ever recreated

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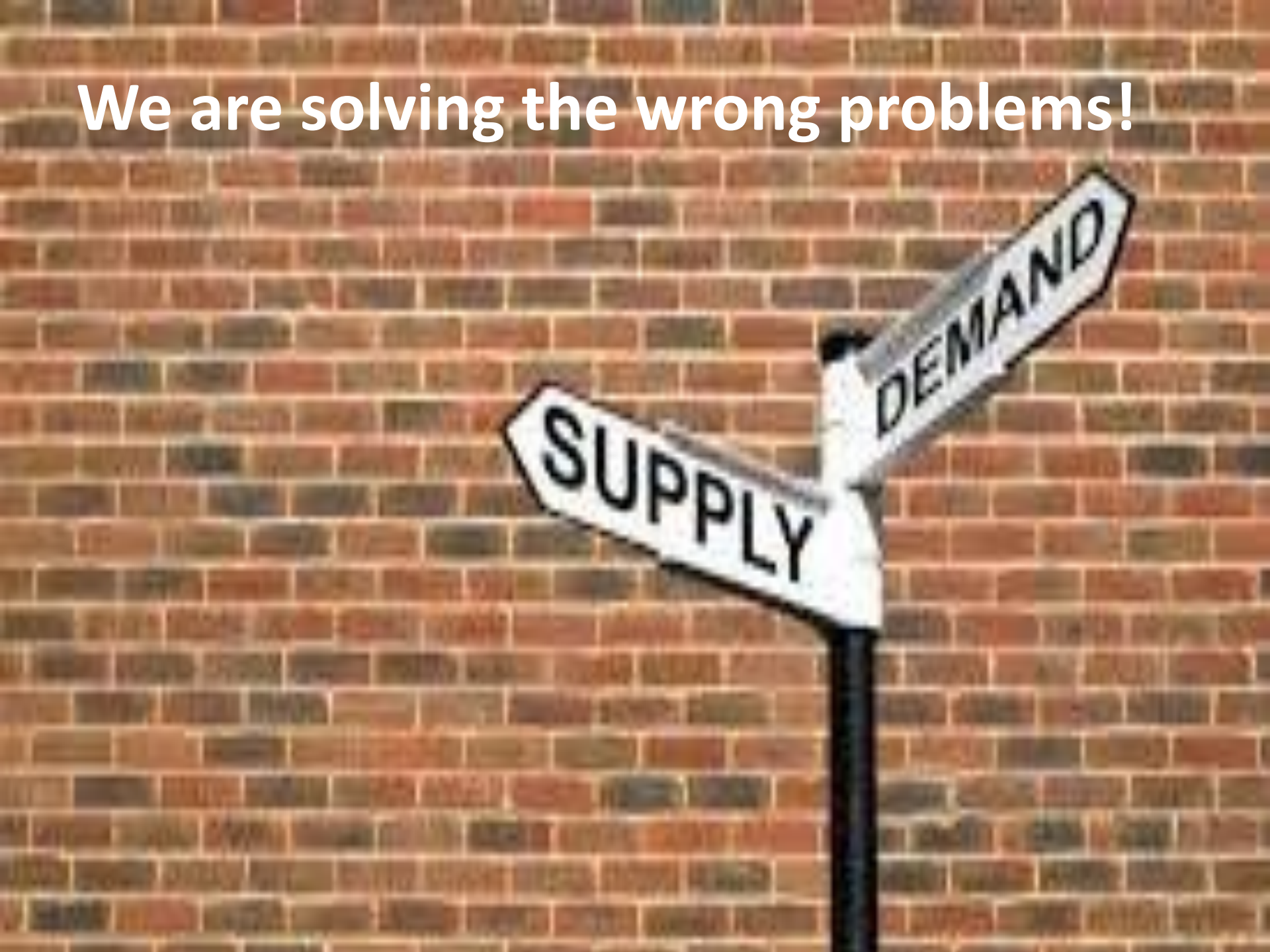
We have inadvertently created orphans through our systemic practices.

We are solving the wrong problems!



Fundamentally rethinking our purpose:

How do we keep children safely *with* their families, not *from* their families?

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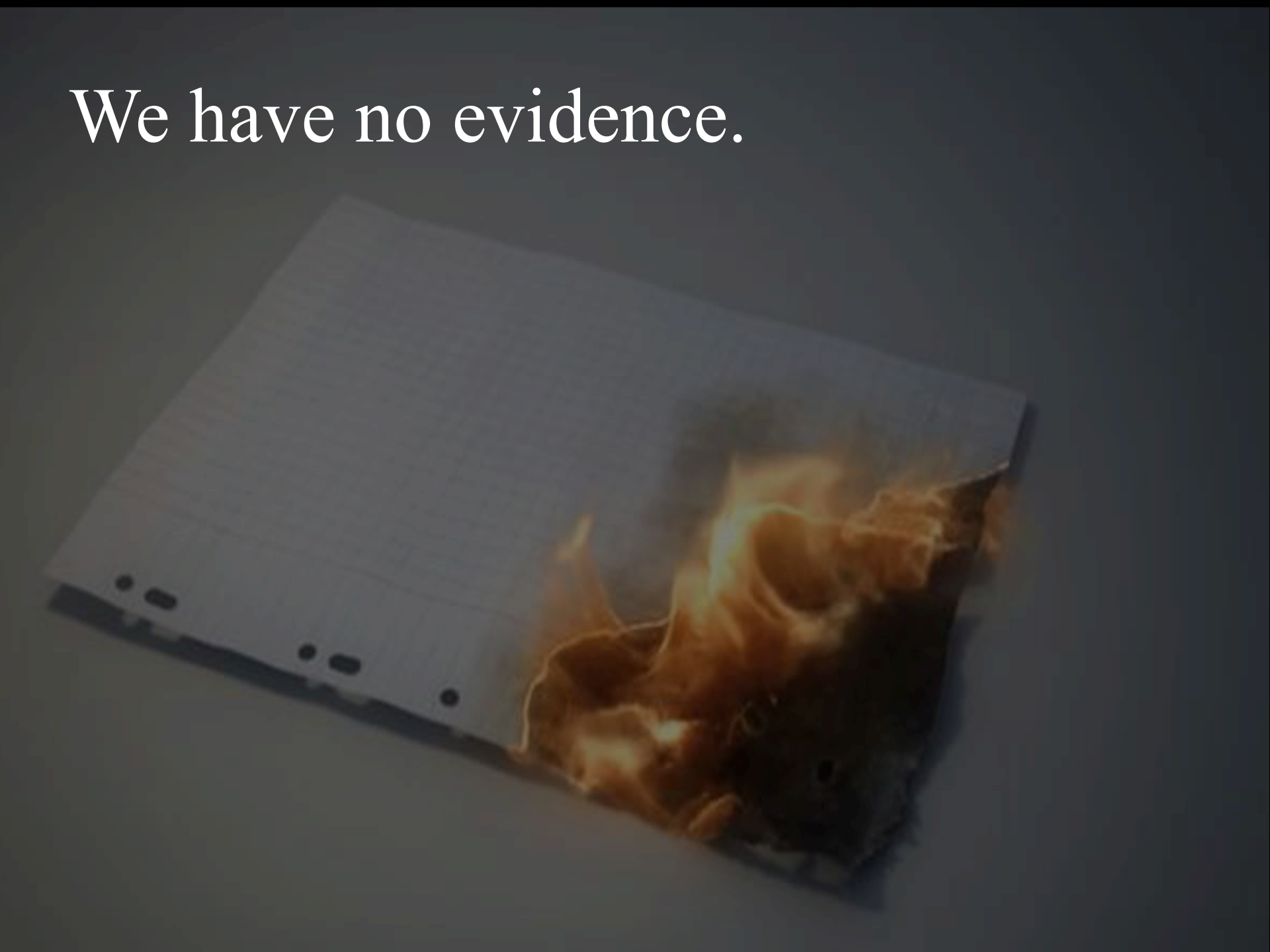
Together, we are shifting mindsets

We have no evidence.



Social Return on Investment Study

Foster care "well-done"
$1.00 invested= -$3.64*

Foster care "typically-done"
$1.00 invested= -$9.55*

Wait, I don't get it!

"I don't get it, this says
it would be better to do nothing at all."
RIGHT…
…**and We CAN'T DO NOTHING,**
so we better get busy building a new way!

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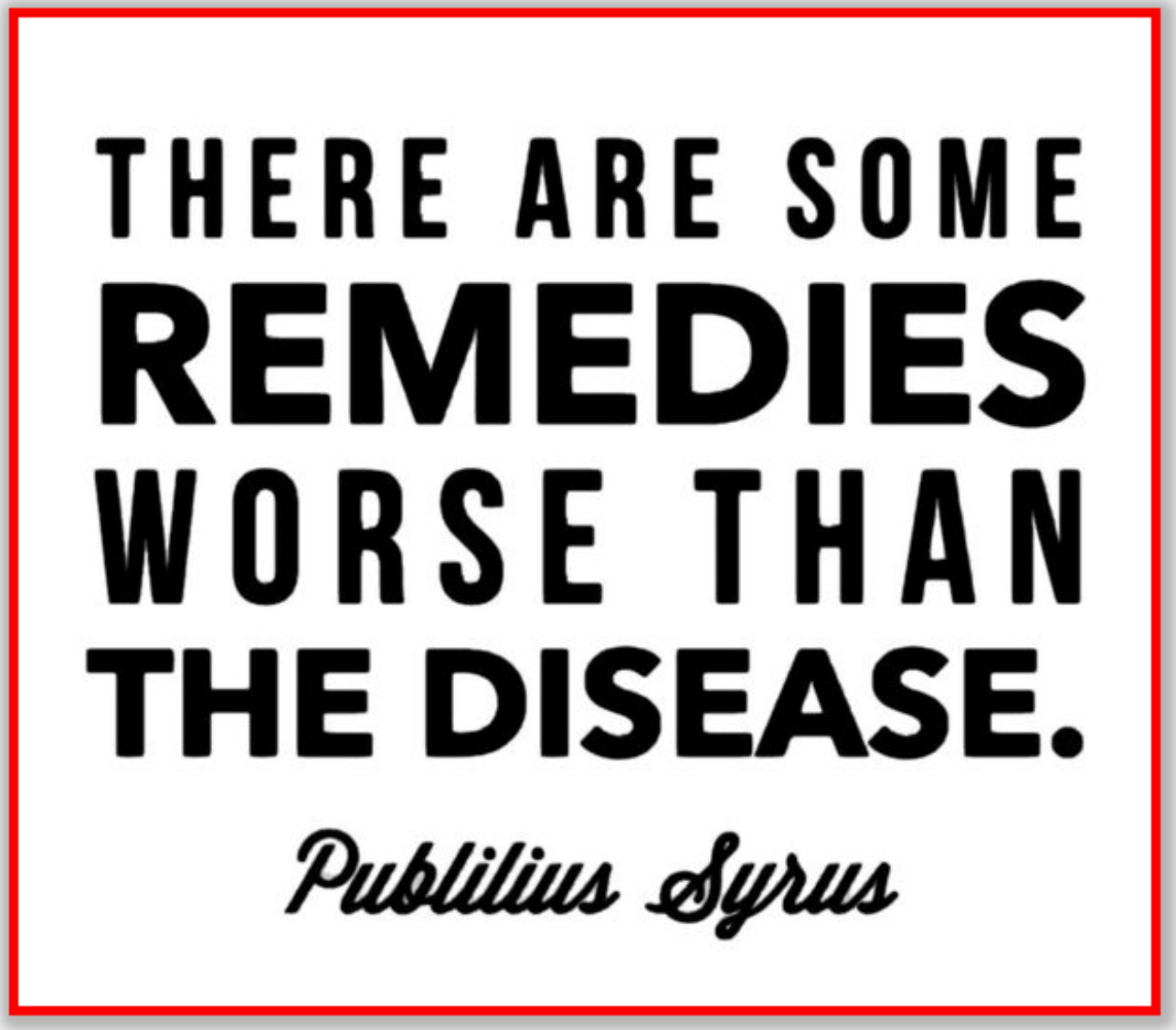
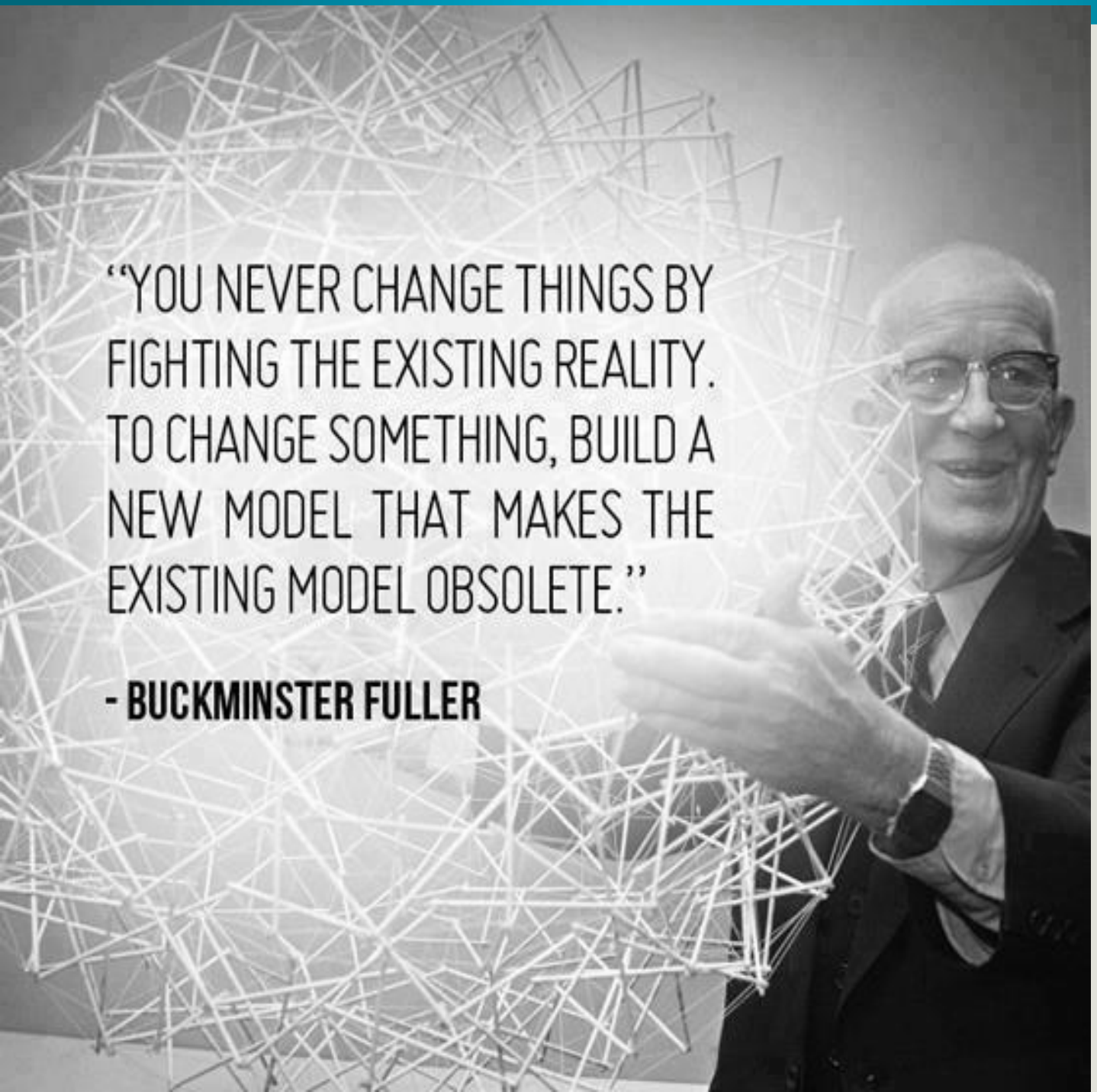

THERE ARE SOME
REMEDIES
WORSE THAN
THE DISEASE.
Publilius Syrus



We must build a new way

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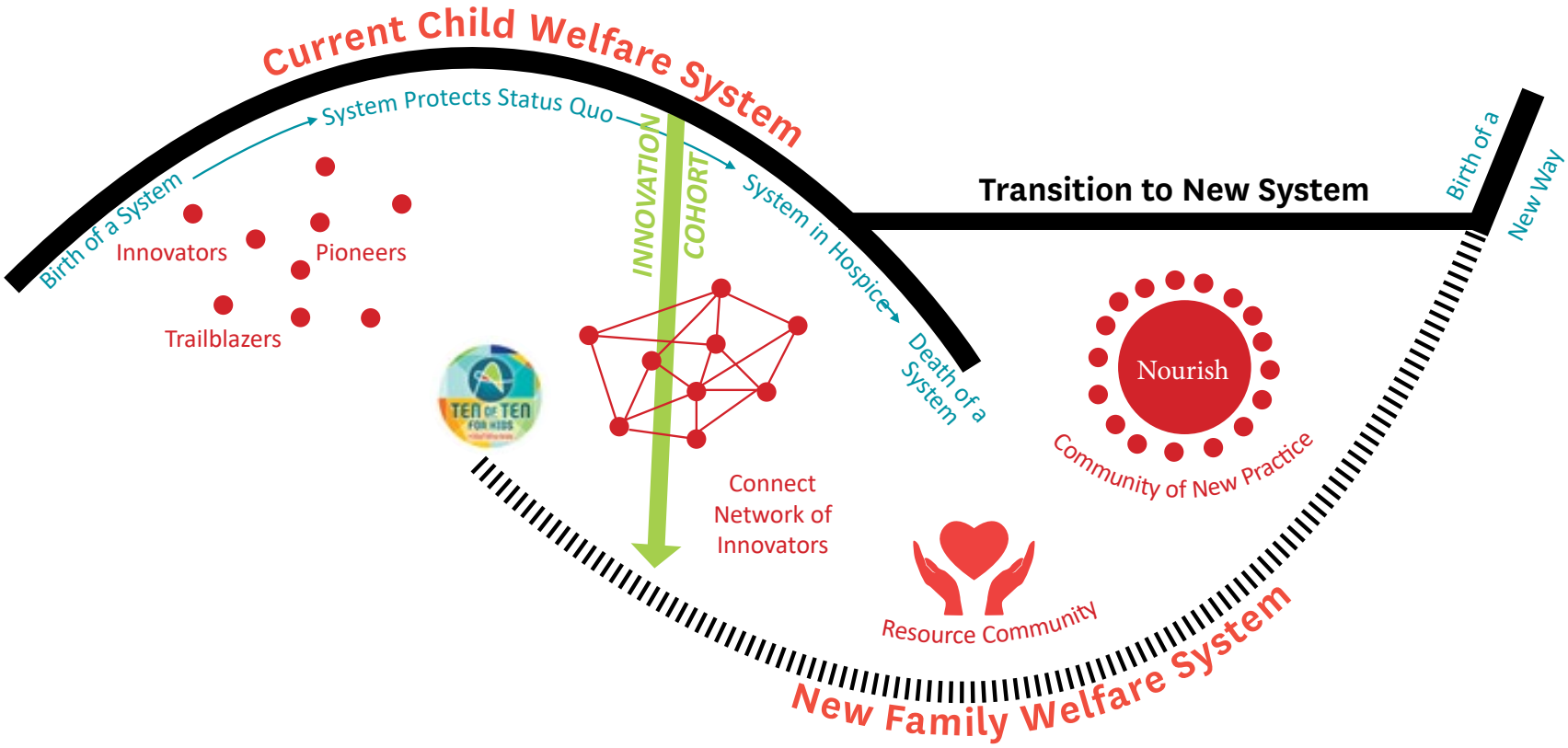
BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

Evolution of a System



*Adapted from M. Wheatley & Berkana Institute

TEN OF TEN FOR KIDS

#10of10forkids

How might we redesign a better child welfare system?

What would it take?

To keep every child safely at home or safely in their own family?

To help families who are struggling?

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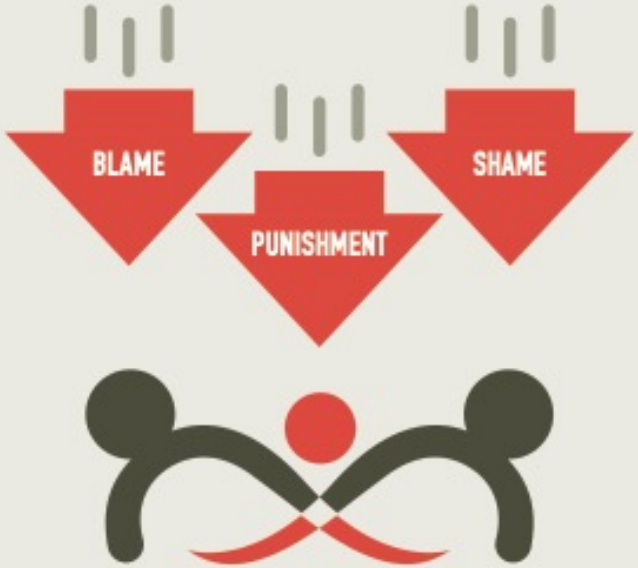
Traditional Child Welfare System

Current child welfare approaches often **UNDERMINE** the family system



The current system adds more pressure on families in times of challenge, which undermines family wellbeing and healthy childhood development.

An UnSystem

UnSystem approaches **BUILD** family wellbeing and support healthy child development

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PROTECT RELATIONAL CONNECTIONS AS SACRED

NURTURE THE CAPACITY FOR JOY

INSIST ON RACIAL EQUITY AND RADICAL INCLUSION

DARE TO SHARE POWER

COMMIT TO INTERGENERATIONAL WELLBEING

TRUST THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO DESIGN THEIR OWN FUTURES

DO WHAT LOVE WOULD DO

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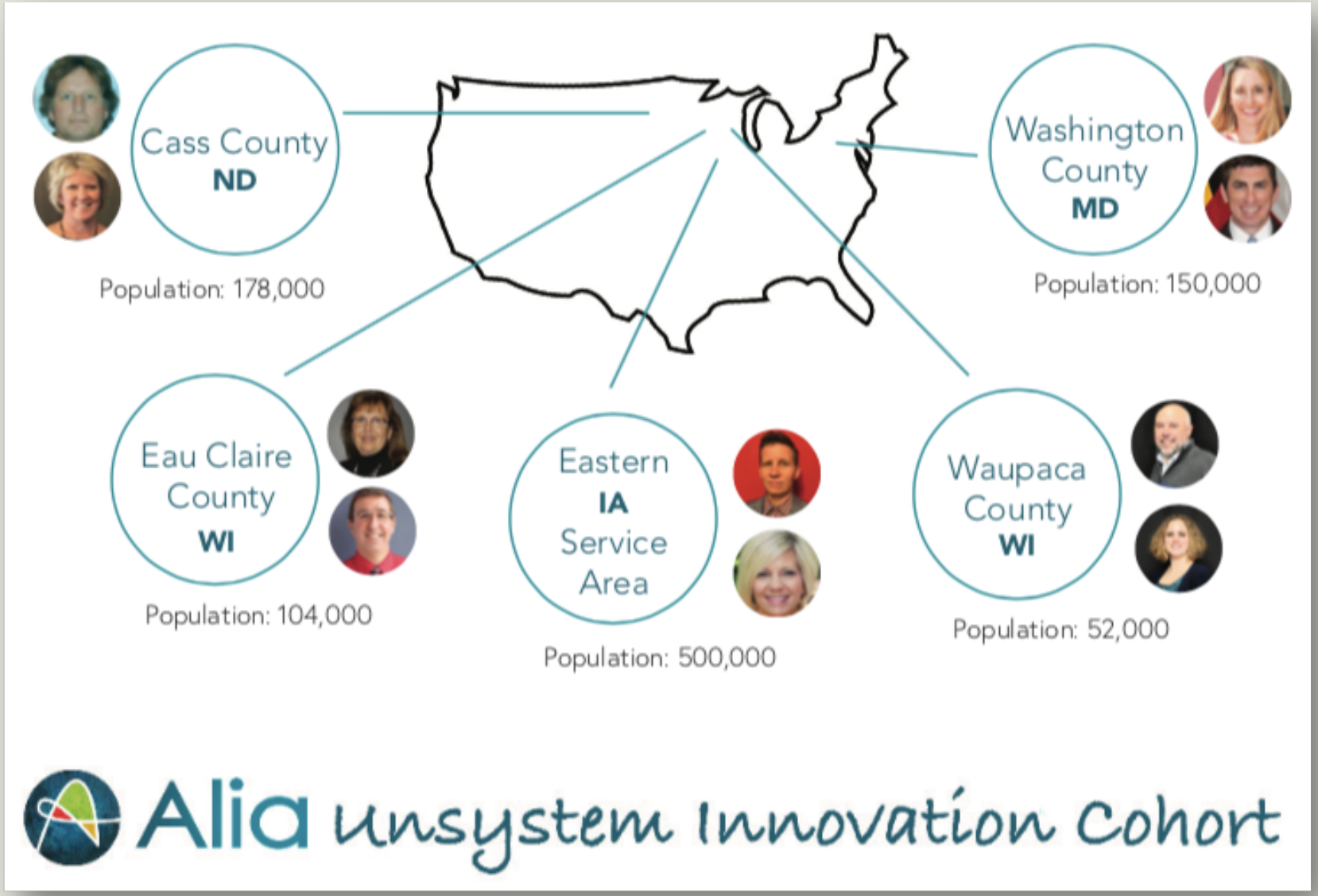
Do what love would do


Cass County
ND
Population: 178,000
Washington County
MD
Population: 150,000
Eau Claire County
WI
Population: 104,000
Eastern
IA
Service Area
Population: 500,000
Waupaca County
WI
Population: 52,000
Alia Unsystem Innovation Cohort

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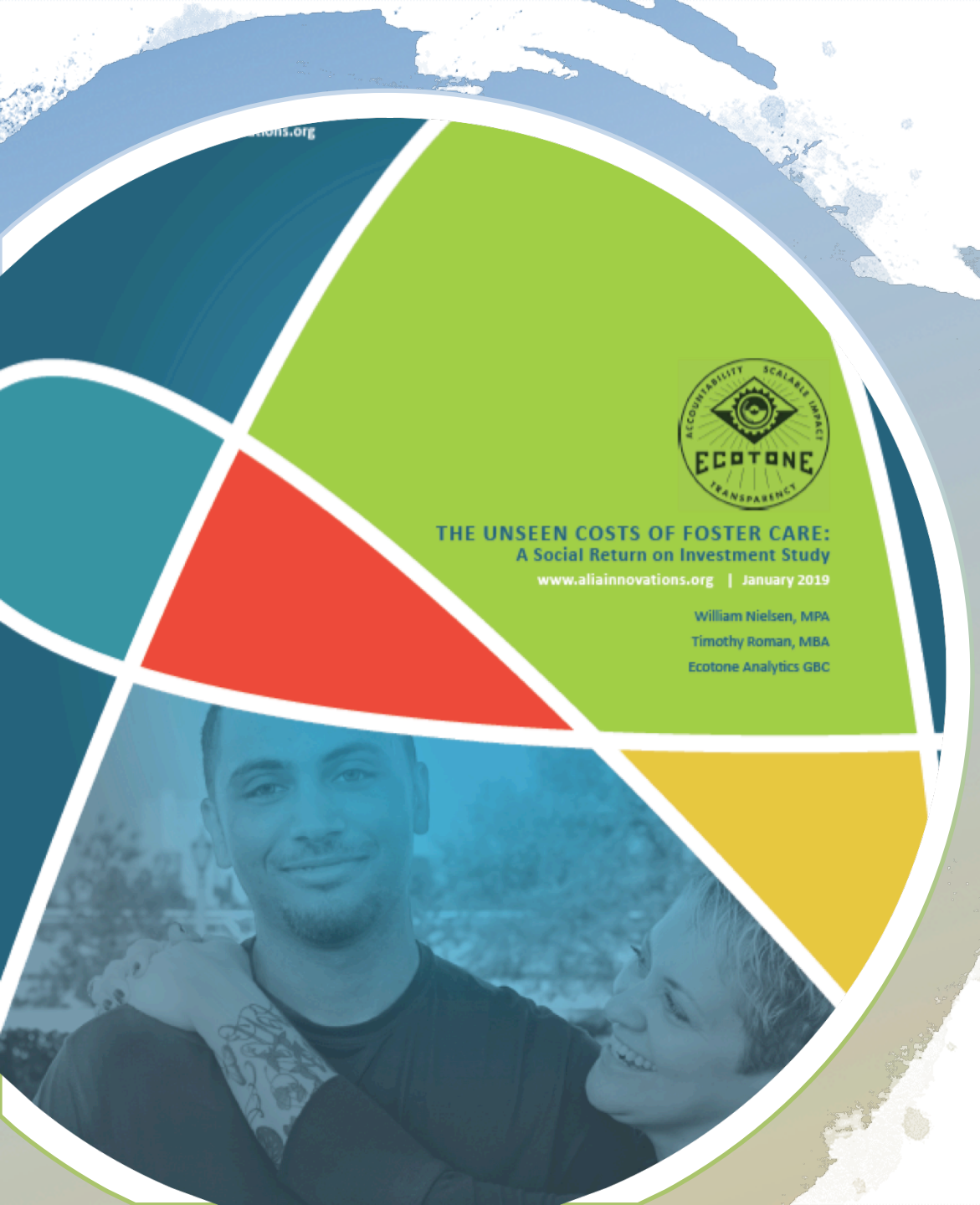
Proof of Concept

Innovation Cohort Case Studies and Early Data



Other Reports Coming soon:

Research Brief on preserving families & placing with kin

SROI: Keeping children safely at home or placing with kin

Year One Innovation Cohort Outcomes

The social return on investment impacts of racial bias for youth in care *(pending)*

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What is the national child abuse prevention system?

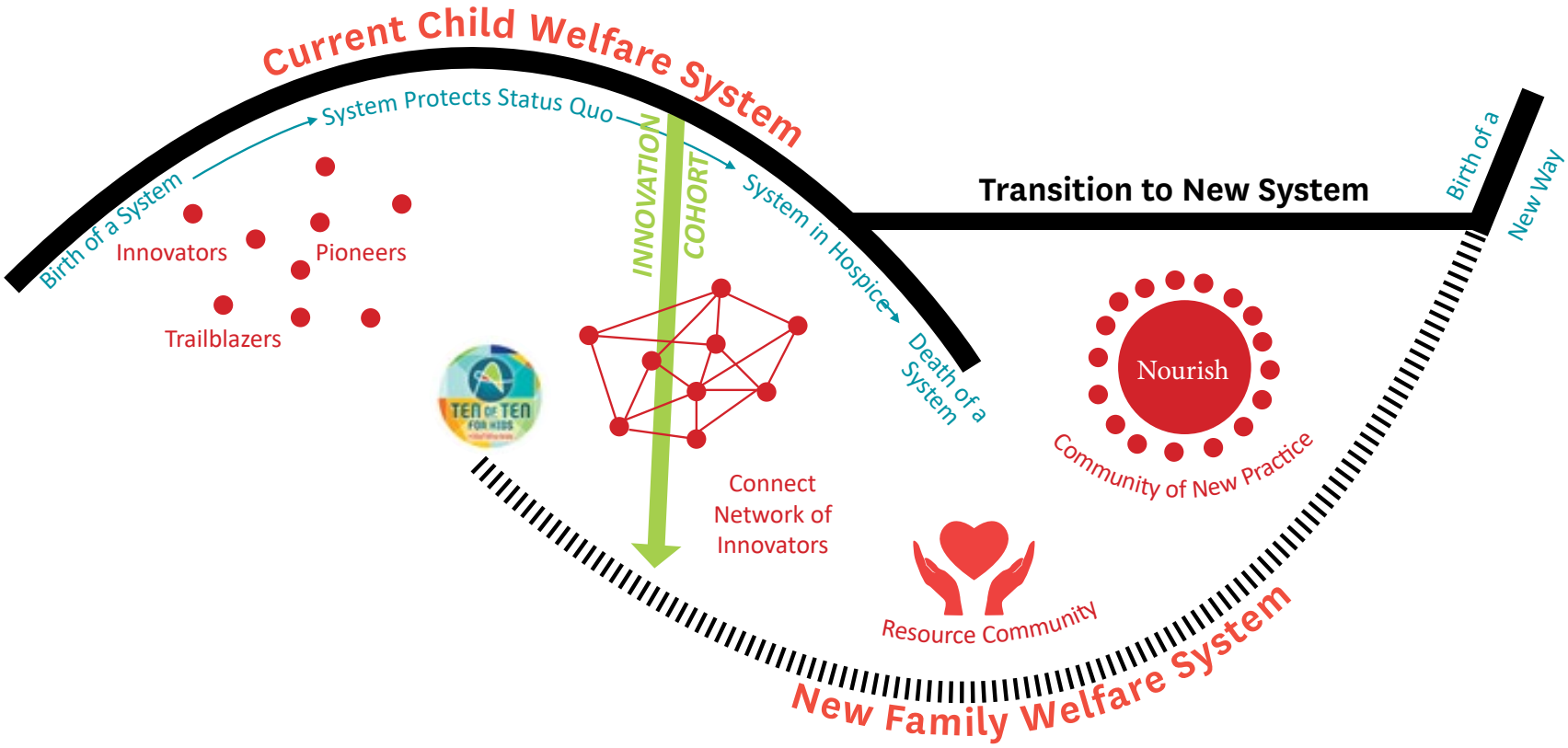
Whose job is it to support parents

until they can safely parent their children?

ZERO

Moral Injury: *when we know better*

Evolution of a System



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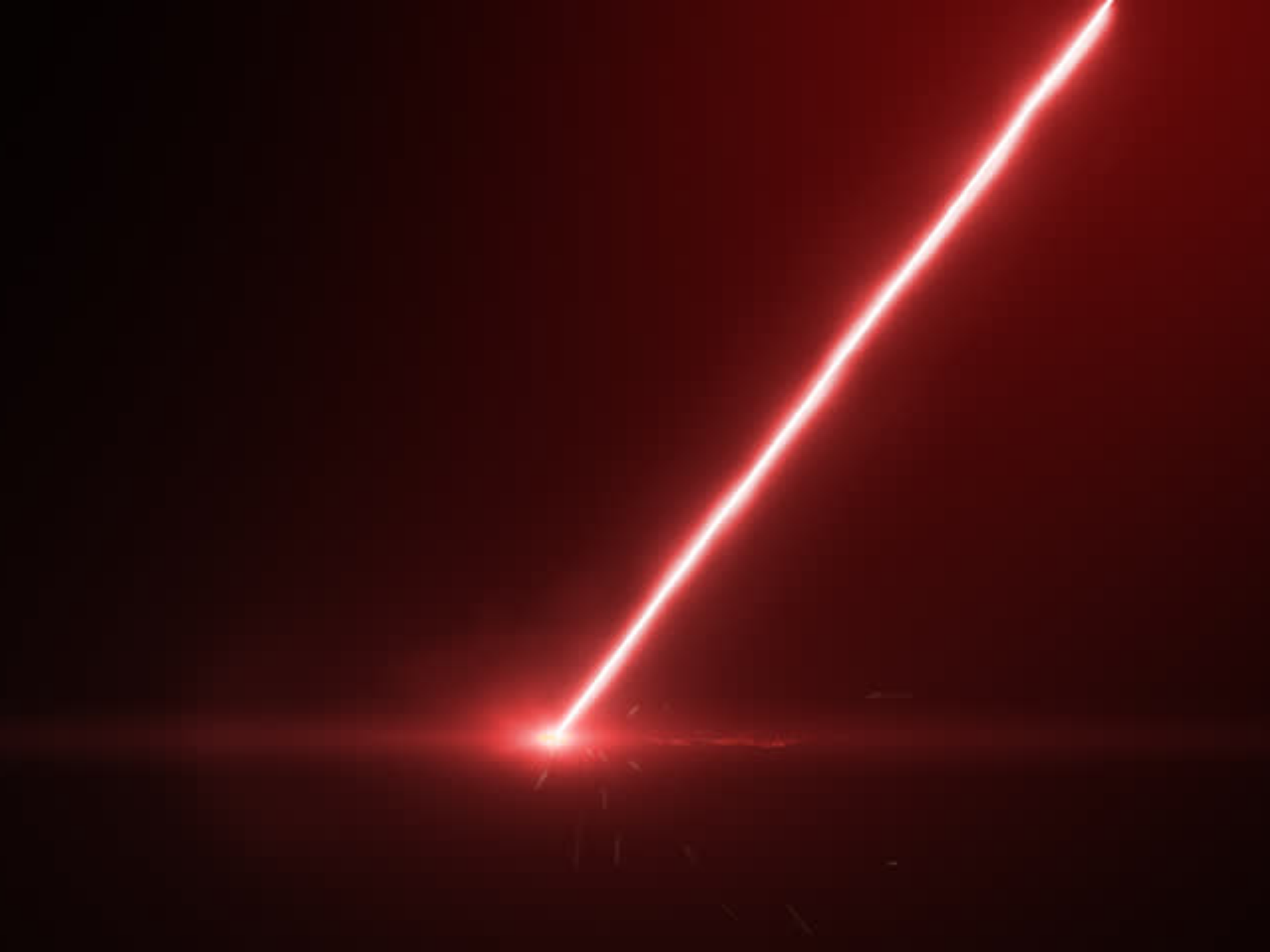

Amelia Franck Meyer

www.aliainnovations.org

amelia@aliainnovations.org

@alfranckmeyer

@aliainnovations

Amelia's TEDx Talk

"The Human Need for Belonging"

Available on YouTube

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