

Integrating Mental Health Services for TANF Recipients Through ACA Collaboration

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What We Know...

- People with mental health conditions are more likely to be poor and unemployed
- About one-fourth to one-third of TANF recipients have a mental illness
- Many have co-occurring mental health illness and substance abuse
- Among TANF recipients, having a mental health condition is a major barrier to consistent employment

Understanding the Problem



- It's not only about an inability to comply with work requirements, but also about understanding the pathways of influence for families
 - Having a depressed parent puts children at high risk for behavioral problems and mental illness
 - Increased stress related to threat of benefit loss may impact the family

Addressing the Problem

- Conducting screening and assessments
- Developing supportive services
- Connecting recipients to SSI benefits
- Allowing recipients to access state-funded programs
- Linking recipients to skilled mental health professionals

Presenters



- **Lori Beyer**, Trauma clinician and lead trainer, Community Connections

- **Denise Marzullo**, President and CEO of Mental Health America of Northeast Florida