Improving the mental health and economic security of two generations: The New Haven MOMS Partnership

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Two Generation Approach

Changing Outcomes For Children Facing Adversity Requires Transforming the Lives of Adults Who Care for Them

Violence
Mental Illness
Substance Abuse
Poverty
Adverse childhood Experiences

Strengthening foundational skills for parenting, employability, and responsible citizenship

Courtesy of Jack Shonkoff
Depressed Mothers are the “Hardest to Reach” but Most Necessary to Engage

• Between 28 and 61 percent of mothers in home visiting programs screened positive for depression.¹

  – Program effects may be greatest for mother’s with depression.²,³

  – But these mothers usually drop out early or never enter programs.⁴

• In Connecticut, only 35% of depressed mothers referred to mental health care attended an appointment.

¹Ammerman, RT. Aggression and Violent Behavior 15. 2010.
²Rahman, A. PLOS Medicine 10 (5) e1001442, 2013.
Ensuring the Emotional Health of Our City’s Families
How Moms Talk About Stress

• “Not having a full-time job and living paycheck to paycheck.”

• “Working and getting paid small amounts of money”

• “Being a single mom with three sons and not being able to give them everything they want”

• “Not being able to provide for my family in a way that satisfies me”

• “Feeling unable to provide children with friends, experiences”
Our Target Population

Percent of Mothers Reporting Emotional Health Need by New Haven Neighborhood

Legend

New Haven Neighborhoods
% Reporting Emotional Health Need

- 0.0%
- 0.1% - 25.0%
- 25.1% - 35.7%
- 35.8% - 44.4%
- 44.5% - 53.2%
- 53.3% - 61.1%
- Reliable data not available
Formalized Partnerships Across Sectors

- All Our Kin
- Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic
- Housing Authority of New Haven
- New Haven Health Department
- New Haven Healthy Start
- New Haven Public Schools
- State of CT Department of Children & Families
- State of CT Department of Social Services
- The Diaper Bank
- Yale School of Medicine
Two Gen Approach Driven by Mothers

- Community Mental Health Ambassadors
- Based on “Needs Assessment”
  - Goals as well as needed support
- Data sharing across agencies and generations
- Cognitive behavioral therapy-based workforce and mental health interventions

Smith, Kruse J Health Policy & Planning, In Press
Emotional Health Need (N=2,213)
Innovation in Location

- Integration of health in non health settings is essential to addressing chronic health needs

- Supermarket, Public Housing Complexes, Boys & Girls Club- “HUBS”

1 IOM. Living Well with Chronic Illness: A Call for Public Action. 2012
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