



Foundations for Success

*Improving early childhood mental health
to support successful families and communities in Ramsey County*

Service update from participating agencies September - December 2005

Foundations for Success is a five-year initiative designed to develop and implement a county-wide system for early childhood mental health services in Ramsey County. Funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and coordinated by the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties, the initiative promotes culturally competent and family friendly services. Services are developed and implemented by a collaboration of more than 100 community agencies, representing local foundations, government, parents, school districts, health, mental health, early childhood professionals, and the University of Minnesota.

Wilder Research evaluates the initiative and collects quarterly service records from the funded service providers. This report summarizes services provided by four of the five programs (Beginnings In-Home Therapy, Incredible Years Dina Curriculum, Incredible Years Parent Group, and Project KEEP) from September 16, 2005, through December 15, 2005.

Demographic characteristics of participants served

A total of 46 adults and 180 children have been served by the reporting programs since the beginning of the grant. During this quarter:

- A total of 18 new adults and 97 new children were admitted to the programs.
- About one-third (32%) of the adults served were under age 30; 68 percent were age 30 to 50.
- The ages of children served by the programs varied and included 33 percent between 13 and 24 months, 33 percent between 25 and 36 months,

25 percent between the ages of 37 and 48 months, and 8 percent between the ages of 49 and 60 months.

- Participants represented a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, including African American (66%), White (18%), Multi-racial (11%), Asian (3%), and Hispanic (2%).
- More than two-thirds of the families (70%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- Almost two-thirds of the participants (62%) were male.
- About two-thirds (63%) of the participants had a high school degree or less; 18 percent had attended some college, while 22 percent had at least a bachelor's degree.
- About half of all households comprised one adult (57%) and two children (49%).

Demographic characteristics of program staff

- More than half (59%) of the staff were under age 40.
- Although staff were primarily White (73%), they also represented other ethnic groups, including African American (18%), African-born (5%), and Asian-Pacific Islander (5%).
- Staff were predominantly female (93%).
- Most staff (71%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- Education levels of staff varied and included high school diplomas (7%), associate's degrees (33%), bachelor's degrees (44%), and master's degrees (15%).

Referrals and waiting lists

- A total of 38 referrals were made to the funded agencies from 10 different agencies.
- Programs made a total of 21 referrals from their agency to 10 different agencies.
- Only one program indicated that children were currently on a waiting list, reporting that six children have spent an average of 10 days on the waiting list.

Funding sources

- Programs billed for services for eight children during the quarter.
- Different funding strategies for supplementing Knight grant funds were reported, including billing for services by an LICSW for clients with Medical Assistance and billing health insurance for the children's Incredible Years Therapy group, which runs concurrently with the parent group.
- Some programs reported exploring Children's Therapeutic Support Services as a possible funding source.

Training and consultation

Under the Knight Foundation grant, Incredible Years Dina Curriculum and Project KEEP conduct trainings or consultation sessions with other agencies. During this quarter, Incredible Years Dina Curriculum provided the following agencies with training: East Side YMCA, Saint Paul Public Schools School Readiness-Metro 94, Wilder Child Development Center, Community Action Mounds View Head Start, Saint Paul Public Schools Wheelock Early Childhood Special Education and School Readiness, and White Bear Lake Area Schools Normandy Park. A total of 20 staff received training at these agencies.

Of the agencies that have received training at any time during the grant period, several provided service this quarter, including Community Action Bigelow Head Start, Wilder Child Development Center, Community Action Swede Hollow Head Start, Community Action Mounds View Head Start, Saint Paul Public Schools Wheelock Early Childhood Special Education and School Readiness, White Bear Lake Area Schools Normandy Park, Mounds View Special Education, East Side YMCA, Saint Paul Public Schools School Readiness-Metro 94, and Midway YMCA. A total of 437 children were served by trained agencies this quarter.

Note: Some quarterly reporting forms provided incomplete data about programs. The results presented are based upon available data from programs.

For more information

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