



Foundations for Success

Improving early childhood mental health

to support successful families and communities in Ramsey County

Service update from participating agencies March - June 2006

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 five programs (Beginning's Infant/Toddler Mental Health Home Visiting Program, Incredible Years Dina Curriculum, Incredible Years Parent Group, Fraser Day Treatment and Project KEEP) from March 16, 2006, through June 15, 2006.

Demographic characteristics of participants served

A total of 72 adults and 218 children (based on data from two and three programs, respectively) have been served by the reporting programs since the beginning of the grant. During this quarter:

- A total of 10 new adults and 22 new children were admitted to the programs.
- More than half of the adults served (56%) were age 30 to 50.
- The ages of children served by the programs ranged from 13 to 60 months; almost half (46%) were between 49 and 60 months.

- Adult and child participants represented a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, including African American (36%), White (35%), Multi-racial (15%), Hispanic (6%), Native American (3%), Asian (1%), and other (4%).
- Almost three-quarters of the families (73%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- Seventy percent of the adult and child participants were male.
- More than half of the parents (59%) had a high school degree or less; 23 percent had attended some college, while 17 percent completed either a two-year degree or a bachelor's degree.
- About half of all households had one adult (55%) and one child (45%).

Demographic characteristics of program staff

- Almost two-thirds (63%) of the staff were under age 40.
- Although staff were primarily White (83%), they also represented other ethnic groups, including African American (10%), Asian-Pacific Islander (5%), and Hispanic (2%).
- Staff were predominantly female (92%).
- Most staff (70%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- Most staff had a college degree, including associate's (20%), bachelor's (51%), and master's degrees (20%). Nine percent of the staff did not have a college degree.
- Types of professional licenses held by staff included LPP (17%), LSW (33%), and other licenses (50%).

Referrals and waiting lists

- A total of 16 referrals were made to the funded agencies from 6 different agencies.
- Programs made a total of 36 referrals from their agency to 16 different agencies.
- Only one program currently had a waiting list, reporting that three children had spent an average of 60 days on the waiting list.

Funding sources

- Programs billed for services for six children during the quarter.
- Different funding strategies for supplementing Knight grant funds were reported, including a newly approved plan to bill HealthPartners and Children's Therapeutic Support Services (CTSS) for services and billing health insurance for the children's Incredible Years Therapy group, which runs concurrently with the parent group.
- Some programs anticipated new funding sources, such as third party reimbursements for Project KEEP, grant funding from the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) to expand Incredible Years Parent Groups in Ramsey County, and funding from CTSS.

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 training to a total of 48 staff at 12 agencies.

Of the agencies that have received Incredible Years Dina curriculum training at any time during the grant period, 11 agencies provided service this quarter, serving 531 children in total. Six agencies with whom Project KEEP staff have previously consulted provided service this quarter, serving a total of 28 children.

Conclusions and recommendations

The data suggest that the gender and ethnicity of staff is not reflective of the clients being served. Whites comprise eighty-three percent of staff, but only 35 percent of clients. Conversely, one in ten (10%) program staff are African American, although more than a third (36%) of the programs' clients identify as African American. Similarly, nearly all (92%) of the program staff were female, while over two-thirds (70%) of clients were male.

Program managers may want to explore new ways to recruit persons of color and men. As 70 percent of staff earn less than \$30,000 annually, one strategy may be to identify ways to increase staff salaries, allowing agencies to offer competitive salaries to professionals from underrepresented demographic groups.

Programs may also want to consider additional strategies for funding. In order to continue services beyond the period of the grant, program managers might explore possible options such as billing and grant opportunities.

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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