



Foundations for Success

Improving early childhood mental health

to support successful families and communities in Ramsey County

Service update from participating agencies March – June 2008

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, 2008 through June 15, 2008.

Demographic characteristics of participants served

A total of 112 adults and 413 children have been served by the reporting programs since the beginning of the grant. During this quarter:

- A total of 38 new adults and 30 new children were admitted to the programs.
- Nearly two-thirds of the adults (64%) served were ages 20 to 39.
- The ages of children served by the programs ranged from 13 to 61 or more months; about two-thirds were between 37 and 60 months.

- Adult and child participants represented a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, including African American (36%), White (31%), Multi-racial (20%), Hispanic (7%), African-born (4%), and Native American (1%).
- Nearly three-fourths of families (73%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- The majority of adult and child participants (62%) were male.
- More than two-thirds of parents (69%) had a high school degree or less; 16 percent had attended some college, while one in five completed a two-year degree or higher.
- One-third of households (33%) had only one adult, and 6 in 10 households (61%) had between two and four children.

Demographic characteristics of program staff

- Nearly half of program staff (49%) ranged in age from 25 to 34 years old.
- Staff were primarily White (83%), although they also represented other ethnic groups, including African American (13%), Asian-Pacific Islander (2%), and Multiracial (2%).
- Staff were predominantly female (91%).
- Over half of staff (53%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- Nearly three-fourths (72%) of staff had a four year degree or higher. Twenty-one percent of staff did not have a college degree.
- Types of professional licenses held by staff included LSW (29%), LMFT (21%) and other (unspecified) licenses (50%).

Referrals and waiting lists

- A total of 33 referrals were made to three of the funded agencies from 12 different agencies.
- Three programs made a total of 29 referrals from their agency to 21 different agencies.
- Two programs currently had waiting lists, reporting that a total of 11 children had spent an average of 7 to 30 days on waiting lists.

Funding sources

- Two programs reported billing for services for 30 children during the quarter.
- One program reported funding strategies for supplementing Knight grant funds including billing health insurance companies.
- One program anticipated increasing their funding sources by the addition of new staff that would approach organizations and foundations for support.

Training and consultation

Under the Knight Foundation grant, Incredible Years Dina Curriculum and Project KEEP conduct trainings or consultation sessions with other agencies.

Of the agencies that have received Incredible Years Dina curriculum training at any time during the grant period, 14 agencies provided service this quarter, serving a total of 563 children. Project KEEP staff have consulted with 87 agencies who are currently

providing services this quarter. Of these agencies, eight received training for the first time this quarter.

Conclusions and recommendations

The data continue to suggest that the gender and ethnicity of staff is not entirely reflective of the clients being served. Whites comprise over three-quarters of the staff (83%), but only 31 percent of clients. Conversely, more than one-third (36%) of the programs' clients identify as African American, while only 14 percent of program staff are African American. With regard to gender, nearly all (91%) of the program staff were female, while more than half (61%) of clients were male.

Program managers should continue to explore new ways to recruit persons of color and men. As 53 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 should continue to identify 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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