



Foundations for Success

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

Service update from participating agencies September - December 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 September 16, 2006 through December 15, 2006.

Demographic characteristics of participants served

A total of 102 adults and 281 children have been served by the reporting programs since the beginning of the grant. During this quarter:

- A total of 30 new adults and 49 new children were admitted to the programs.
- About three-quarters of the adults (76%) served were ages 20 to 39.
- The ages of children served by the programs ranged from 13 to 61+ months; about two-thirds (62%) of children were between 37 and 60 months.

- Adult and child participants represented a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, including African American (40%), White (36%), Multi-racial (15%), Hispanic (3%), African-born (1%), Native American (1%), Asian (1%), and other (1%).
- Over three-quarters of the families (81%) had annual incomes of \$30,000 or less.
- Sixty percent of adult and child participants were male.
- Two-thirds of parents (63%) had a high school degree or less; 18 percent had attended some college, while 19 percent completed a two-year degree or higher.
- Half of all households (54%) had one adult and two-thirds of households (67%) had between 2 and 4 children.

Demographic characteristics of program staff

- Ninety percent of staff were between the ages of 25 to 54 years old, with almost half of all staff (43%) between the ages of 25 and 29.
- Although staff were primarily White (78%), they also represented other ethnic groups, including African American (18%), and Asian-Pacific Islander (5%).
- Staff were predominantly female (90%).
- Almost all staff (94%) had annual incomes of \$40,000 or less.
- Most staff had a college degree, including associate's (2%), bachelor's (44%), and master's degrees (24%). Twenty-nine percent of staff did not have a college degree.
- Types of professional licenses held by staff included LSW (25%), LMFT (17%), and other licenses (58%).

Referrals and waiting lists

- A total of 46 referrals were made to the funded agencies from 14 different agencies.
- Programs made a total of 35 referrals from their agency to 15 different agencies.
- Two programs currently had a waiting list, reporting that 23 children had spent an average of 60 days on the waiting list.

Funding sources

- Programs billed for services for 33 children during the quarter.
- Different funding strategies for supplementing Knight grant funds were reported, including LICSW certified with Health Partners, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Medical Assistance; billing Children's Therapeutic Support Services (CTSS) for services; the Wilder Endowment, and billing health insurance for the children's Incredible Years Therapy group, which runs concurrently with the parent group.
- Two programs anticipated more funding sources through billing health insurance and CTSS; others are exploring funding options.

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 28 staff at 13 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,

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

servicing a total of 516 children. Project KEEP staff have consulted with 40 agencies. Seven of these agencies have provided service serving a total of 70 children since the beginning of the grant period, including 24 children 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, although some progress has been made. Whites comprise three-quarters of the staff (78%), but only 36 percent of clients. Conversely, although more than a third (40%) of the programs' clients identify as African American, only 18 percent of program staff are African American. Although some disparity continues to exist, the percentage of African American staff has increased over the past six months. With regard to gender, nearly all (90%) of the program staff were female, while over half (60%) of clients were male.

Program managers should continue to explore new ways to recruit persons of color and men. As 94 percent of staff earn less than \$40,000 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.

For more information

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