



## Foundations for Success

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

### Training evaluation results April 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.

The initiative is evaluated by Wilder Research. One component of the initiative is an evaluation of training opportunities sponsored by Foundations for Success. At the conclusion of the trainings, participants report their level of satisfaction with the training. This report summarizes the results from seven training sessions conducted between May 2005 and December 2005.

The trainings served various organizations such as school districts, Child Protection, Public Health, mental health agencies, and the medical community. Topics addressed by the trainings included mental health screening and the Ages & Stages Questionnaire®: Social Emotional (ASQ:SE), filial services, and the Foundations for Success initiative. A total of 149 participants attended the seven trainings.

Participants learned about the trainings from a variety of sources. Most often, participants reported learning from the trainings from Generations

CS&S/GCSS agency training (17%), Ramsey County Early Childhood Mental Health (Foundations for Success) listserv (15%), or through work/agency training (12%).

#### **Participant demographics**

- Almost all of the training participants were female (93%).
- Participant age varied considerably from age 20 to over 60. Slightly more than half of the participants (56%) were age 40 to 59, while a quarter (25%) were age 30 to 39.
- Most participants (74%) identified themselves as Caucasian. The remaining participants represented a diverse range of other ethnic groups: African American (13%), Asian (6%), Multiracial (4%), Hispanic (2%), and Native American (1%).
- Most participants worked in Ramsey (71%) or Hennepin County (19%). The remaining participants worked in Washington, Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, or Carver County.<sup>1</sup> Most participants also lived in Ramsey (36%) or Hennepin County (30%).
- Participants attended the trainings in multiple capacities, but primarily as mental health professionals (35%), public health staff (22%), and school nurses (11%).

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<sup>1</sup> The total percentage exceeds 100 percent as some reported working in multiple counties.

## Overview of participant satisfaction

- Almost all participants (99%) reported that they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the trainings were of high quality overall.
- Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the presenters in particular.
  - All participants (100%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the presenters had strong knowledge of the material presented and were well prepared.
  - Most (98%) felt that the presenters related information in a clear and understandable manner and responded well to questions.
  - A somewhat smaller proportion of participants (88%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that presenters were able to involve the group in the training sessions.
- Most participants (96%) indicated that the handouts or written materials contained helpful information, and a similar proportion (93%) reported that the material presented at the trainings would make them more effective in their work.
- Fewer participants reported that they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the program was held at a convenient time (89% of participants) or location (79% of participants). This somewhat lower level of overall satisfaction with location, however, may be due to the very low satisfaction level (27%) of participants with one particular training (the CME Early Childhood Mental Health Pre-conference).
- Ninety-four percent said they would recommend the training to others with similar needs.

## Open-ended responses

- When asked to describe the most useful part of the trainings, participants reported a variety of aspects, including the training topics and content, the teaching materials, and the instructor. Several participants expressed satisfaction with “all of it.”
- When asked to describe the least useful part of the trainings, most participants did not provide a response, although a few did identify specific content, teaching materials, and methods.
- Several respondents reiterated that all of the training was useful and expressed appreciation.
- Some participants offered a variety of suggestions, including finding an alternative training venue (for some trainings), addressing certain topics and resources, condensing or extending training sessions, and modifying the presentation style.

### For more information

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