Improving Children’s Mental Health Through School and Community Partnerships: Looking Back and Moving Forward in Racine

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Presentation Overview

- Describe HWPP funding and Racine’s funded project
- Outline Racine project’s strategies and related evaluation data
- Discuss how community partners were engaged throughout project
- Illustrate how the Project Director and Project Evaluators collaborate to inform data-driven decision making
- Compare Racine project’s key implementation activities with planned sustainability plans
## Grant Phases & Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>Learning and Planning</td>
<td>July 1, 2016</td>
<td>June 30, 2017</td>
<td>$2.28 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>Project Implementation</td>
<td>July 1, 2017</td>
<td>June 30, 2022</td>
<td>$12.74 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>Sustainable Transformation</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>June 30, 2024</td>
<td>Estimated $6.6 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 Funded Community Coalitions

- Advancing Access to Improved Mental Health in Rural Southwestern Wisconsin
- Better Together (La Crosse County)
- Building a Behavioral Health System to Reduce Reported Depression Among 6th-12th Grade Students (Marathon County)
- Creating Mental Wellness through Systems Change (Brown County)
- Enhancing Behavioral Health in Northern Wisconsin through Innovative Collaboration and Outreach
- Healthier Community Action Team Behavioral Health Project (Lac du Flambeau Tribe)
- Healthy Teen Minds (Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties)
- Improving Children's Mental Health through School and Community Partnerships (Racine County)
- Mental Health Matters: Promoting Resilience for Chippewa Valley Youth
- Milwaukee School, Home, and Community Collaboration to Improve Youth Mental Health
**INTRODUCTION**

The Racine Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health (C2MH) was formed in 2012 following a research project conducted by the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread.

Key Challenges identified in Racine\(^1\)

- Poor system and service coordination
- Multiple barriers to access
- High service costs and limited funding
- Workforce and service shortages

\(^1\)Top of Mind: Children’s Mental Health in Racine; Highlighting facts and uncovering urgent needs (2012)
Youth Behavioral Health Data Continuum

85-95% of children in Racine 4K programs typically meet or exceed social and emotional developmental milestones
-2016 Teaching Strategies Gold

Panorama Student Survey

Nearly 25% of RUSD 7th graders report feeling sad or hopeless
-2014 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
Indicator - Panorama Data

- Increase by 5% Racine Unified School District (RUSD) 3rd-5th grade elementary school students’ Panorama Social Emotional Learning survey scores in the areas of Emotion Regulation and Social Awareness.

- AHW agreed to pay for Panorama survey implementation for 3rd-5th grades, reducing by 25% over time
Racine’s Strategies to Improve Behavioral Health

- Improved Mental Health Coordination and Pathways
- Positive School Climate
- Nurturing and Supporting Caregivers

= Healthy Children
Community Partners

- Racine Unified School District
- Racine County Human Services
- Professional Services Group
- Saint A’s
- Children’s Hospital of WI - Community Services
- Catholic Charities
- Racine Kenosha Community Action
- Extension Racine County
- 4C for Children

- Learning Styles LLC
- Focus on Community
- Acelero Learning
- Pathways Counseling, LLC
- YMCA
- Higher Expectations for Racine County
- Central Racine County Health Department
- United Way - Racine County
- Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health
- Racine Police Department
Community Partner Engagement

- Methods to engage our partners varied and included:
  - Strategic mapping of who should “be at the table”
  - Individual meetings with potential partners to build more intentional and meaningful connections
  - Presenting opportunities for mutual gains in partnering together, i.e. a health department employee participating in our work benefits the health department through increasing access of mental health services for their community and allows our coalition to expand utilization of the community resource website
  - Project Director attending already scheduled meetings for other groups (i.e. the Hispanic Round Table, County staff meetings, etc.)
  - Attending and presenting at community networking events
Project Director and Evaluator Collaboration

- We are using a collaborative evaluation model throughout the grant (planning, implementation, and sustainability)

- Evaluators are part of coalition and strategy team meetings and meet with director twice a month to discuss both strategy updates and data

- Set up processes to provide data back to inform future decisions and implementation of activities
Strategy 1: Project Team Collaboration

- Main activities:
  - Mapping resources for parents
  - Expanding parent and caregiver social emotional learning knowledge and practice
  - Install Learning Landscapes
Strategy 1: Project Team Collaboration

- Evaluation activities:
  - Tracking the number of parent/caregiver educational events and attendance.
  - Surveys to measure changes in parental/caregiver knowledge, confidence, skills, and behavior related to social emotional learning and support for children across multiple programs and program providers.
  - Gather feedback from mental health providers on Learning Landscape content and implementation.

- Collaboration:
  - Prior to this grant, agencies providing parent/caregiver support and training did not regularly meet with each other. Now that they do, they share information and learn from each other.
  - Developed common survey items to track shared outcomes across agencies and programs.
Strategy 2: Project Team Collaboration

- **Main activities:**
  - Work with RUSD and 4k sites to increase social emotional learning related training for caregiving staff.
  - Assist RUSD and 4k sites in quality improvement and tracking of social emotional learning related training.
  - Map and streamline professional development opportunities within RUSD.
  - Help establish a policy or guideline for required social and emotional development training for RUSD staff.

- **Evaluation activities:**
  - Tracking the number of staff completing social emotional development training.
  - Develop and implement the Teacher SEL Training Survey to measure changes in knowledge, confidence, skills self-management and regulation, and behavior related to social emotional development.
Strategy 2: Project Team Collaboration

• Collaboration:
  - Share results with RUSD to inform future programming.
  - RUSD plans to implement SEL “building leads” in part based on survey results that indicated teachers wanted more in-depth training and coaching.
Strategy 3: Project Team Collaboration

- Main activities:
  - SEL curriculum mapping
    - To find out what was being done and to what degree
  - Second Step SEL curriculum implementation and program evaluation
    - To find out degree of fidelity to program and obtain feedback
  - Inner Explorer pilot and expansion
    - To gather data on new program in one school before considering expanding
Strategy 3: Project Team Collaboration

• Evaluation activities:
  - Form completed by social workers/counselors to see what SEL programs are implemented and to what degree
  - Second Step evaluation:
    • fidelity checklists,
    • interviews with teachers,
    • Qualtrics survey for teachers to provide feedback on implementation
  - Inner Explorer evaluation:
    • Qualtrics survey for teachers to provide feedback
    • User statistics from Inner Explorer
**Evaluation Reports**

- Summarized high-level findings relevant to strategy team
- Presented and discussed during coalition and strategy team meetings
- Used by district to advocate for certain programs/activities
**Strategy 3: Project Team Collaboration**

- **Collaboration:**
  - Mapping identified Second Step as the most widely used/implemented SEL program in district
    - Chose to evaluate fidelity to that program and gather feedback from teachers
  - Inner Explorer pilot data highlighted buy-in from teachers and positive experiences for students
    - District chose to expand program to the whole district
    - Continued strong implementation of program in Elementary and Middle schools, continued investment
Strategy 4: Project Team Collaboration

Main activities:

- Creation of behavioral health referral pathway
  - To improve the system used in the district and set up a better “warm handoff” process in the community

- Identifying and maintaining referral pathway community providers
  - To conduct quality assurance for this process

- Initiating and sustaining Network of Care website: [https://racine.wi.networkofcare.org/family/index.aspx](https://racine.wi.networkofcare.org/family/index.aspx)
  - To ensure school district and community access to website in future
Strategy 4: Project Team Collaboration

• Evaluation activities:
  – Beta testing of website before community-wide launch
  – Pop-up survey for users on website
  – Coalition and strategy team meeting surveys on website and pathway
  – Monthly usage data from Trilogy
**Evaluation Reports**

- Summarized website usage and referrals
- Presented and discussed during coalition and strategy team meetings
- Used to improve website, determine marketing strategies, and refine referral pathway
Strategy 4: Project Team Collaboration

• Collaboration:
  – Beta data used to inform changes to website pre-launch
  
  – Survey data from website helps identify errors, tailor key links, add resources, and do QA of referral pathway
  
  – Usage data informs when there is a need to increase marketing and track impact of that marketing on website use
Moving Forward: Using Data to Inform Sustainability

• Sustainability Aim 1: Sustain Efforts To Further Improve The Social Emotional Health Of Elementary Students

• Sustainability Aim 2: Sustain Access Of Mental Health Resources Via The Www.Racinecountyfamilyresources.Com Website

• Sustainability Aim 3: Improve Access And Coordination Of Mental Health Services For The Racine Community Via Maintenance And Review Of The Referral Pathway
Reflections on Collaborative Evaluation

• Stakeholders cannot always act on data
  – Outside influences (politics, funding, relationships, change of staff) influence degree to which data can be applied

• Challenges obtaining data from/with partners

• Carefully balance how to present “negative” results in a way that respects stakeholders/partners, but represents what evaluation showed accurately
Thank you

Questions?