

State Health Improvement Plan: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

May 22, 2020, 1:30 PM, via GoToMeeting

Purpose of Meeting:

Data presentation from Jess Mayrer (U of M) on the Experiences & Expressions Screener. Update from Patty Butler on activities of the ECSB. ACE's subgroup update.

Workgroup Lead:

Rachel Turnbow

Workgroup Facilitator:

Deb Halliday

Workgroup Members Present:

- Aklestad, Kristi
- Barnes, Amber
- Butler, Patty
- Carlson-Thompson, Dan
- Eblen, Tina
- Friend, Jordan
- Halliday, Deb
- Holman, Carly
- Lavinder, Melissa
- Lemieux, Mary
- Lysons, Tammy
- Mayrer, Jessica
- Morton, Stephanie
- Oliver, Brie
- Onwuchekwa, Kalu
- Ostheimer, Ashley
- Prevel, Miranda
- Smith, Kari
- Young, David

Welcome and introductions

Deb Halliday welcomed everyone to the call and asked them to introduce themselves and answer the questions: what is an example of coming together by a community or organization during COVID?

Answers included:

- Eight o'clock howling and banging on plates
- Meeting neighbors now more than ever

- How rapidly the community focused organizations have pivoted to help with COVID
- People have been making masks which they are often giving away free
- Agency staff putting on many hats
- Inspired by how the team is connecting a lot more
- Home community is offering small business loans
- Faith based groups teleconferencing with the detention center
- Being around the kids more
- Fortunate to be able to split time with family and work
- Family closeness has been advanced with the enforced time together
- Children who are putting art into their windows

Data Presentation: Jess Mayrer- Experiences & Expressions Screener

Five years ago, a needs assessment was conducted in concert with grant funding being received and it was found that Montana has no consistent screener being administered to children for ACE's. The Experiences & Expressions Screener is the result. It was designed to be administered by laypeople and is a twenty-six-question instrument with two primary goals:

1. Get children who need help to the people that can help them.
2. Identify the prevalence of trauma and victimization.

Pilot test was between July 2018 and November 2019 to a demographic that was largely between 15-17, Caucasian, and male. They built community resource matrices to communities in which they work.

Deb offered the group of moment of quiet time to consider the following three questions about the presentation:

1. How can this information help you in your work?
2. Who can you share this information with who may appreciate knowing about it?
3. What questions or comments do you have?

Questions:

- Carli Holman: what are your thoughts on the use of the screener moving forward and into other counties it hasn't yet been used in?
 - They are automating outside of their work in Justice, and they would like to get the screener out into the communities, schools, etc. They are hoping to expand using the CONNECT system. They are hoping to work with Headstart, and other community organizations. Partnership Health Center. The original design was to get it out into communities and that is the next step for them.
- Amber: Is there a plan to get it into pediatrician's offices? What about school boards?
 - They are looking at additional funding to try to get them into pediatrician's offices. Local school administrations have a lot of power in Montana. They need to appeal to school boards and administrators to get the screener into those settings. There is a third party administration protocol for schools so it is outside of the school employees.

Update on Various Early Childhood Services Bureau activities, Patty Butler

Many of the older adolescents who are part of the population the Experiences & Expressions Screener looks at are parents of the children that ECSB serves. ECSB is seeing somewhere around 10-12% increase in this population who are classified as homeless, showing how these kinds of issues spill over into each other.

COVID-19

What are the effects of COVID in the 0-5 population? At present ECSB has received about ten million in CARES money with very few restrictions. This is the same funding which funds many of their existing projects.

Childcare

How have communities responded to the COVID emergency and what about childcare providers? All Headstarts chose to close - this was done by recommendation at the federal level. There was a 48% closure rate of childcare providers which was an issue with all the schools closing. There were temporary emergency providers which came together. These do not need to be licensed due to state and federal waivers and they are operating in a wide variety of settings. They will be looking to increase the number of providers as some closed permanently during COVID, and there was already a supply/demand issue.

Update on ACEs subgroup, Pam Ponich-Hunthausen

The reason that the subgroup was originally conceived was the realization that there were several strategic plans occurring related to ACE's, and it was time for a group to start looking at them all together and brainstorming how they could be centralized.

Childwise

Pretty much all of the ACE's training currently is coming from Childwise, and they need more trainers. They have also developed a new training, hoping to create "Super Educators" who can train the trainers.

The question came up, who should house all the ACE's data and resources in the state of MT? ACE's connection was discussed, as was the MT ACE's community. It makes sense currently to maintain this work within Childwise, but to look at how to assist Childwise in the work they are doing. There also needs to be a new environmental scan.