

Connecticut Elm City Project LAUNCH

Early Childhood Cabinet

10.21.16



Elm City Project LAUNCH

Linking **A**ctions for **U**nmet **N**eeds in **C**hildren's **H**ealth

- Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Lead agency – CT Department of Children and Families, involving multiple partners
- Five year grant
- Location: New Haven , CT - Dwight Neighborhood with plan to expand to NH community

Project LAUNCH is designed to promote the health and wellness of young children from birth to 8 years by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development.

Local activities serve as pilot programs to enhance service delivery and inform state early childhood system development

The intent is to strengthen and enhance the partnership between physical health and mental health systems at the state and local level.

CT Elm City Project LAUNCH Partners

Core Team		
CT Department of Children and Families	Project Director	Kimberly Nilson
CT Department of Public Health	Young Childhood Wellness Partner	Christine Velasquez
Wheeler Clinic	Interim State Coordinator	Melissa Mendez
Clifford Beers Clinic	Local Coordinator	Tirzah Kemp
Yale School of Medicine	Local Evaluator	Ashley Clayton / Megan Smith
Other Partners		
Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP)	CT Association for Infant Mental Health (CT-AIMH)	
New Haven MOMs Partnership	New Haven Public Schools	
United Way	FAVOR, Inc.	

Prevention and Promotion Strategies

- System Integration: Increase coordination and collaboration across systems
- Evaluation: Process and Outcome
- Workforce Development
- Public Awareness/Media Campaign

LAUNCH Five Key Strategies

- Screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings
- Integration of behavioral health into primary care
- Mental Health consultation in early care and education
- Enhanced home visiting with a focus on social and emotional well-being
- Family strengthening and parent skills training

Project LAUNCH Objectives

- Increase access to screening, assessment, and referral to appropriate services for young children and families
- Expand use of culturally relevant, evidence-based prevention and wellness promotion practices in a range of child-serving settings
- Increase integration of behavioral health into primary care settings
- Improve coordination and collaboration across disciplines at the local, state, and federal levels
- Workforce Development to meet the needs of children and families

Project LAUNCH Outcomes

- Improved access to services
- Increased screening and early identification
- Increased public awareness about issues impacting children (ages 0-8)
- Enhanced knowledge and capacity of workforce intervening with children
- Decrease health and behavioral health disparities

ECPL: Summary of State and Local Activities



Developmental Screening and Assessment

Goal 1: Increase access to screening, assessment, referrals and linkages to appropriate services to promote physical and mental health for children ages 0-8 and their families

- Clinician located in three pediatric practices within New Haven
- Collaboration with Christian Community Action Agency (CCA)
 - Intake process inclusive of developmental/mental health screening and screening for maternal depression
- MOMS Partnership: Inform families about available resources in community based on needs identified.
- Collaboration/participation in statewide committees to support developmental promotion, screening, surveillance, and timely linkages to services.

Behavioral Health Integration

Goal 2: Promote the integration of behavioral health in primary care settings through workforce development and enhanced communication among pediatric care settings and other providers who serve young children and their families.

- Connected local providers to Child Health Development Institute (CHDI) to facilitate training: Educating Practices In the Community (EPIC) modules for pediatric offices
- Updated existing Mental Health Resource inventory for local Pediatric Practices
- Partnered with local Mental Health providers to identify gaps/ barriers that impede collaboration with Primary Care Physicians
- Collaborated with key stakeholders invested in development of behavioral health integration with pediatric primary care practices

Enhanced Home Visiting

Goal 3: Promote the development of a home visiting workforce that can effectively meet the needs of young children and their families in the local and state communities.

- Ongoing training opportunities for Home Visiting providers on Infant Mental Health (6 day training series)
- Linked local Nurturing Families Network providers with Pediatric Practices focusing on Infant Mental Health, Maternal Depression, and accessing services
- Collaborated with local and state home visiting staff to identify gaps and barriers that impede collaboration between home visitors and pediatric health providers
- Developed a survey for pediatric health providers to improve communication between home visitors and pediatric health care providers
- Proposing development of shared training plan for early childhood home visiting staff across programs

Mental Health Consultation

Goal 4. Expand evidence-supported mental health consultation services into early education settings.

- Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP) provides child-specific intervention, core-classroom services, and intensive center-based services in early care and education settings within New Haven community.
- Testing feasibility of expanding the ECCP model to older children, K-3 to create a complete birth to age 8 early childhood mental health intervention.

Family Strengthening

Goal 5. Build and enhance the capacity of families to support the social/emotional development of children ages 0 to 8.

- Connected with local provider to conduct Adult English as a Second Language and GED classes to parents in the New Haven community, inclusive of Health and Wellness
- Collaboration with School Based Resource Center of Troup School located in the Dwight Neighborhood
 - connecting families to social/emotional support agencies in New Haven including MOM's Partnership
- Mom's Partnership provides increased case management opportunities for families through LAUNCH and offers skill building classes and workshops (Stress Management and Work Readiness classes)
- State agency collaboration to share strategies for increasing parent participation on infant/early childhood advisory groups
- Sharing/exchanging information at the local and state level with local parents and providers
- Recruited parents to serve on the CT-ECPL Local & State Young Child Wellness Councils

Systems Integration

Goal 6. Facilitate Linkages and coordination between state level entities and coordinating bodies focused on promoting optimal outcomes for child and family health and wellness.

- Local Wellness Coordinator secured endorsement as an appointed member of the New Haven Early Childhood Council
- Recruited parents/caregivers representing the target population to serve on the New Haven Early Childhood Council
- Local LAUNCH team have met with over 50 community-based providers to discuss opportunities to align and expand reach of current programs
- The New Haven Early Childhood Council involving parents in a substantial, meaningful way
- Established partnership with Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to co-lead state planning workgroup

Public Awareness Campaign

Goal 7: Implement a social marketing and public awareness campaign

- Collaborated with United Way to develop a media campaign for Project LAUNCH.
- Local participation in shaping the public health campaign.
- Organized parent focus group from local community to identify topical areas to promote the health and wellness of children and their families.
- Interviewed system level workers and clinical providers to inform messaging.
- Media campaign will utilize multiple strategies to increase awareness and understanding of 0-8 population

Evaluation

Assessing outcomes in the following areas:

- Coordinating and integrating primary care, behavioral health and early care/education systems
- Conducting developmental, social/emotional and mental health screenings in homeless shelters, early care settings and supermarkets
- Changes in core knowledge of professionals working with young children as a result of ECPL interventions
- Caregiver capability to assume leadership roles within their local and state community
- Linking and coordinating services and priorities between state/local level entities
- Impact of a social marketing and public awareness campaign promoting child mental health

Local Young Child Wellness Council

Purpose: Brings local families and social service providers together who share a desire to improve the wellness of young children and their families in New Haven.

Membership:

- Families/Local organizations
- Parents/Community members
- Health/Mental Health
- Social Services
- Education

What we are learning: *Families are more active and engaged in health promoting initiatives when they are allowed and encouraged to set their own agenda.*

State Young Child Wellness Council

- Purpose: Brings families and public/private providers together to improve policies and promote system integration to better serve young children and their families
- Membership:
 - State agencies/Non-profit organizations
 - Parents/Advocates
 - Health
 - Mental Health
 - Education
- Provides a forum for true collaboration between state level stakeholders to improve the coordination and integration of early childhood services. *Our shared goal is to improve early identification, assessment and service access, decrease health and behavioral health disparities, and increase effectiveness of early childhood services in Connecticut.*

Sustainability

- Create lasting partnerships between the State of Connecticut and the local New Haven Community
- LAUNCH Strategies support large-scale system-wide improvements
- Ensure expanded practices are designed to live beyond the life of the grant

CT's Proposal

Establish a Statewide Young Child Wellness Workgroup as a subgroup of the Early Childhood Cabinet (ECC)

- **The ECC would function as an advisory entity to provide guidance, support and endorse the work of Project LAUNCH**
 - **Standing ECC agenda item to keep Cabinet informed of the work and provide opportunities for feedback and direction**
- **ECPL Team has partnered with senior administrators of the Office of Early Childhood to plan for and coordinate the Young Child Wellness Workgroup.**

The Young Child Wellness Workgroup

- **Will include broad representation of individuals working with young children**
- **Will create a statewide forum to explore and identify systemic issues that impact children and families in CT**

Thank You

from the ECPL Team

Questions?



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