Local Health Department Efforts to Prevent Child Maltreatment

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Presentation Overview

- Child Maltreatment in the US
- The Public Health Approach
- 5 Example Interventions
- Lessons Learned
Child Maltreatment in the US

3.5 million referrals of child abuse (6.4 million children involved)

61% of received an investigation or other response

679,000 children are found to be victims of child maltreatment

Cost of Child Maltreatment

$124B Estimated total lifetime economic burden of FATAL and NONFATAL child maltreatment

$1.27M Average lifetime cost per victim of FATAL child maltreatment

$210K Average lifetime cost per victim of NONFATAL child maltreatment

The Public Health Approach

- Changing individual behaviors, relationships, families, and communities through social norms change
- Providing effective parenting education and skills-building programs
- Increasing factors that protect children from child maltreatment

LHD Efforts to Prevent Child Maltreatment
Deschutes County Health Services – Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Cascade City-County Health Department – SafeCare

Douglas County Health Department – Healthy Families America

Cabarrus Health Alliance – Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

Anne Arundel County Health Department – Strengthening Families
Experiential and education program for children and parents

Staff: 12

Training: 3-day orientation, 40 hours training from a PCIT master trainer

Partnerships: Behavioral Health Department, WIC, and Local Relief Nursery
Parent-Training Curriculum

Training: 4-year early childhood/health degree and 5-day workshop

Staff: 8

Partnerships: Great Falls Early Childhood Coalition, Center for Mental Health, Public School District Indian Education Department, Big Sky Therapeutic Services
Home Visitation Program

Training: ~30 hours of training for home visitors; 15+ hours of professional development

Staff: 9

Partnerships: WIC, women’s health clinics, social workers, and childcare facilities
Multi-level intervention of education and support for parents

Training: 1-3 day training and accreditation

Staff: 11
103 accredited practitioners in the community

Partnerships: Education, social services, mental health, healthcare, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations
Substance abuse program for parents and children

Training: 2-day facilitator training

Staff: 15

Partnerships: Adolescent and Family Services, Adult Addictions methadone clinic, Community Treatment Services, Public School System, Department of Corrections, social services, and juvenile services
Lessons Learned

- Funding
- Staffing
- Retention
- Data
- Priorities
Individual
Learn skills to create safe, stable, nurturing relationships & environments

Relationship
Use skills to build healthy, supportive bonds with children & safe environments
Support parents & caregivers to have positive relationships with children

Community
Provide easy access to effective parenting info, programs, & support
Implement proven & promising approaches Promote high-quality early childcare & education
Promote health department services creating safe, stable, nurturing relationships & environments

Societal
Encourage policies & norms that create conditions for healthy children & families
Promote policies & laws supporting safe neighborhoods, stable families, & nurturing relationships

Promote high-quality early childcare & education
Promote health department services creating safe, stable, nurturing relationships & environments
Acknowledgements

- This presentation was supported by Award Number 5U38OT000172-02 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, though the CDC Foundation. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the sponsor. NACCHO would like to thank the local health departments that contributed to this presentation. NACCHO also thanks Sheri Lawal, MPH, CHES, Alyssa Rapelje, and Calondra Tibbs, MPH for contributing to the original report.

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Thank you!