



Center for Social Development

GEORGE WARREN BROWN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Washington University in St. Louis



Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth

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Presentation at the Grand Challenges Policy Conference. George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, September 15, 2016.



Overview



- Ensure healthy development for all youth includes two initiatives:
 - *Unleashing the Power of Prevention* (Hawkins, Jenson, and the Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health)



- *Prevention of Schizophrenia and Severe Mental Illness* (DeVylder)



Thanks to our Policy Consultants!



- Nathaniel Counts, J.D., Director of Policy, Mental Health America
- Jeffrey Levi, Ph.D., Professor of Health Policy and Management, Milken Institute, School of Public Health, George Washington University
- Ron Manderscheid, Ph.D., Executive Director, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
- Deborah Klein Walker, Ed.D., Senior Fellow, Vice President, U.S. Health, Abt Associates



Preventing Behavioral Health Problems



- Behavioral health and mental illness in childhood and adolescence have adverse effects on morbidity, mortality, and economic independence
- Policy has focused on treating behavioral health problems after they have been identified, at a high-cost to the nation
- Controlled trials have identified over 60 effective policies and programs for preventing behavioral health problems including substance abuse, depression, anxiety, violence, and delinquency
 - *Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development*, www.blueprintsprograms.com
- Effective prevention saves money
 - *Washington State Institute for Public Policy*, www.wsipp.wa.gov



Goals



- Reduce the incidence and prevalence of behavioral health problems in the population of young people from birth through age 24 by 20% in a decade
- Reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities in behavioral health problems by 20% in a decade





Policy Recommendations



1. Ensure that 10% of all public funds spent on young people support effective prevention programs
2. Increase local and state capacity to support the high-quality implementation of effective preventive interventions
3. Develop community-level systems to monitor risk, protection, and behavioral-health outcomes



Policy Recommendations



4. Provide tested, effective, family-focused preventive interventions without cost to patients or families through primary health-care providers
5. Reduce the duration of untreated mental illness in young people
6. Train and enable a workforce for effective prevention practice



Stakeholders and Partners



- *Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health*
 - Interdisciplinary group of 90 researchers, policymakers, and practitioners representing social work, public health, psychology, and other fields



- **Some Organizational Partners**
 - The Society for Child and Family Practice and Policy, American Psychological Association, Division 37. <http://www.apa.org/about/division/div37.aspx>
 - National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. <http://www.nasmhpd.org>
 - Center for Children, Families, and Communities, Central Michigan University. <https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/chsbs/Psychology/Centers/CCFC/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Mental Health America. <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net>
 - National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives. <http://www.npscoalition.org>
 - Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Division of Public Behavioral Health and Justice Policy. University of Washington. <http://depts.washington.edu/pbjhp/>



Initiatives and Progress



1. Collaborate with states to improve community-level prevention capacity and state-level backbone coordination and infrastructure
2. Promote healthy parenting programs in primary care settings
3. Work with universities, states, and communities to develop a prevention workforce



Summary



- Tested and effective prevention programs prevent behavioral problems and save lives
- Effective preventive interventions are cost-effective and have the potential to save millions of dollars annually

*We can prevent behavioral health problems
in young people before they begin
and improve the public health!!*



Unleashing the Power of Prevention



- *Unleashing the Power of Prevention* is published as a Discussion Paper by the National Academy of Medicine. It is available at: <http://nam.edu/perspectives-2015-unleashing-the-power-of-prevention/>



NAM Perspectives

- Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare: <http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/>





Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health



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