Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth: Strategies, Progress, and Challenges

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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)
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
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
What are the strategies being used by the *Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health* to advance these six policy recommendations?
Advancing the GC of Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth

• Created an interdisciplinary team of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners (Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health)

• Formed a Steering Committee to organize and coordinate the work of the Coalition

• Established four working groups
  – Membership and Outreach; J. David Hawkins
  – Workforce Development; Kim Bender & Valerie Shapiro
  – Dissemination; Jeff Jenson
  – Funding; Richard Catalano
Advancing the GC of Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth

- Established goals and tasks for each of the working groups (membership and reach, workforce development, dissemination, and funding)

- Scheduled regular Steering Committee meetings to assess progress and identify new tasks

- Developed outreach strategies to involve Coalition members
  - Invitations to participate in selected activities
  - Special interest group meetings at SSWR and SPR conferences
  - E-newsletter of announcements and progress
Advancing the GC of Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth

• Be opportunistic!
  – Highlight the GC in conference and keynote presentations
  – Capitalize on the ongoing work of members
    • Healthy Parenting program initiative
    • Prevention-related policy activities at all levels of government
    • Personal and professional networks
  – Use members’ roles in other societies and organizations to advance the GC (e.g., Society for Prevention Research, Institute of Medicine, National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives, SSWR, CSWE, NASW)
1. **Partner with states** to improve community-level prevention capacity and state-level backbone coordination and infrastructure
   a. Prevention *summit* and ongoing consultation with Utah state leaders in education, law enforcement, human services, child welfare, and economic development
   b. Consultation with Colorado and other states to advance preventive interventions across systems of care
   c. Team members from the *Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health* are applying lessons and evidence from the *Evidence-Based Prevention Support Center* at Pennsylvania State University [http://www.episcenter.psu.edu](http://www.episcenter.psu.edu) to other states
2. Join forces with the health care community to promote healthy parenting programs in primary care settings
   a. Congressional Briefing in April 2016 with the National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Board of Pediatrics, AASWSW, and the Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health to educate legislators on the benefits of offering family-focused prevention programs through primary care
   b. Publications from Coalition members aimed at identifying steps necessary to promote evidence based family-focused prevention programs through primary care
3. Collaborate with universities, states, and communities to develop a prevention workforce
   a. Assessing prevention courses and curricula in social work and selected fields
   b. Creating a database of existing resources
   c. Communicating with schools participating in SAMHSA efforts to train social work students in principles of integrated health care
      http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/workforce/team-members/social-worker
   d. Working with other disciplines to improve the training of prevention specialists
Challenges

- Establish the infrastructure necessary to support tasks and meet the goals of the GC
- Secure funding for infrastructure, coordination, communication, and other activities
- Involve Coalition members in new activities and leadership roles
- Assess the effects of our efforts on stated goals
- Sustaining efforts in the next decade
Contributions to a Model of Policy Practice

• Policy strategies to *Ensure healthy development for all youth* seek to:
  – Reduce a pressing social problem at the *population* level
  – Use *science and evidence* to bring efficacious and cost-effective preventive polices and interventions to scale
  – Improve the *underlying conditions* (state and local infrastructure) necessary to create and sustain meaningful change
  – Attend to the individual and broader *needs of all young people, families, and communities*
  – Reduce social, economic, and racial *injustice*
  – Advance the profession by *educating* practitioners and policymakers in prevention
  – *Compliment* other Grand Challenges of Social Work
Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health

Coalition Steering Committee:

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J. David Hawkins, PhD, University of Washington
Richard F. Catalano, PhD, University of Washington
Valerie Shapiro, PhD, University of California at Berkeley
Kimberly Bender, PhD, University of Denver
Mark Fraser, PhD, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Gilbert J. Botvin, PhD, Cornell University
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Unleashing the Power of Prevention
