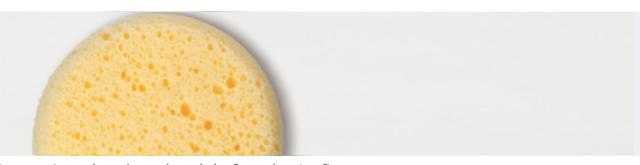


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Effective Strategies for Supporting Priority Populations

Carie Bires

Susan Reyna, LCSW



It's amazing what they absorb before they're five.





Who are priority populations?

- Children of teen parents
- Children in homeless families
- Children in families in poverty or deep poverty
- Children/families with Department of Children and Family Services involvement
- Children with disabilities
- Children with disabilities not currently served
- Children in family, friend & neighbor (license-exempt) child care
- Linguistically isolated families and other families that experience significant barriers based on language
- Children of migrant or seasonal workers



Impact of priority population recommendation

- Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge—Innovation Zones
- Preschool Expansion Grant
- Early Learning Council committees

What are the needs of the Priority Populations?

- Same as other families.....
 - ▶ Desire the best for their children
 - ► Consistency & flexibility, patience, etc.
- Additionally they need....
 - ► Extreme flexibility, response to basic needs (food, shelter, clothing)
 - ▶ Increased awareness of trauma and its impact
 - ▶ Understanding of their increased distrust of systems
 - Awareness that they are survivors

High needs, vulnerable populations

- Child welfare involvement (past or present)
- ► Young moms (18-25)
- Several children under the age of 5
- Maternal history of mental illness addressed or unaddressed
- Significant history of trauma (intergenerational, community, complex trauma)
- Housing instability (shelter stays, couch surfing)
- Limited educational opportunities

What can be done with awareness?

Recognize the impact on the service delivery expectations

- Be sensitive to triggers that will cause the families to flee
- Meet families where they are

What do all children need to thrive?

- Stable and loving family
- Safe & secure housing
- ► Learning opportunities (quality education)
- Access to healthcare and nutrition

Complex Trauma Disorder exposure to multiple traumatic events*

- Hyper vigilant
- ▶ Impaired cognitive and physical development
- ▶ Negative affects on physical and mental health
- Impacts ability to learn
- Particularly damaging in childhood

*National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Harm Reduction Values

- Building rapport & trust
- Seeing small changes as success
- Recognize ambivalence as success
- Being nonjudgmental is essential
- Avoid preconceived goals
- Provide choices
- ▶ Value the individual's information and input

System Cultivation/Integration for the target population

- Value in helping to organize systems to:
 - Implement integrated services
 - Reduce barriers
 - Decrease/eliminate gaps

Questions and discussion

Contact information

Carie Bires, MSW

Senior Policy Manager

Ounce of Prevention Fund

cbires@theounce.org

312-291-2160

Susan Reyna, LCSW

Director of Programs

Children's Place Association

sreyna@childrens-place.org

312-660-3035