



Center for Social Development

GEORGE WARREN BROWN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Washington University in St. Louis



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



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



Advancing the GC of Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth



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)



The Coalition for the
Promotion of Behavioral Health



Policy Activities and Progress



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> to other states



Policy Activities



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

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Primary Health Care

Potential Home for Family-Focused Preventive Interventions

Laurel K. Leslie, MD, MPH,¹ Christopher J. Mehus, PhD,² J. David Hawkins, PhD,³ Thomas Boat, MD,⁴ Mary Ann McCabe, PhD,⁵ Shari Barkin, MD,⁶ Ellen C. Perrin, MD,⁷ Carol W. Metzler, PhD,⁸ Guillermo Prado, PhD,⁹ V. Fan Tait, MD,¹⁰ Randall Brown, MD, PhD,¹¹ William Beardslee, MD¹²

Family-focused prevention programs have been shown to effectively reduce a range of negative behavioral health outcomes but have had limited reach. Three key barriers must be overcome to expand the reach of family-focused prevention programs and thereby achieve a significant public health impact. These barriers are (1) current social norms and perceptions of parenting programs; (2) concerns about the expertise and legitimacy of sponsoring organizations to offer parenting advice; and (3) a paucity of stable, sustainable funding mechanisms. Primary healthcare settings are well positioned to overcome these barriers. Recent changes within health care make primary care settings an increasingly favorable home for family-focused prevention and suggest possibilities for sustainable funding of family-focused prevention programs. This paper discusses the existing advantages of primary care settings and lays out a plan to move toward realizing the potential public health impact of family-focused prevention through widespread implementation in primary healthcare settings.

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Policy Activities



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 policies 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 Steering Committee:

Jeff Jenson, PhD, Chair, University of Denver

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

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



NAM Perspectives



Unleashing the Power of Prevention