Learning Objectives

• **Needs**: What is needed to successfully **prevent** ACEs in a Community Based Public Health Approach
  1. Integration
  2. Continuum of Services
  3. Including Various Community Sectors

• **Resources**: The Resources in Prevention
What we know about ACEs

1. ACEs are Common
2. ACEs occur in Clusters

• ACEs and sustained toxic stress disrupts neurodevelopment and has lasting effects on brain structure and function

• The ACE Study assesses the scientific gap in understanding the “root” origins of common health risk factors.
  
  (ex: paradigm of depressed smokers dying from emphysema…is it the smoking or the depression that kills and why are they depressed to begin with?)

• ACEs have intergenerational transmission
Who is involved in Prevention

- Health
- Social Services
- Individual/Family/child
- Legal
- Research
- Education
- *Community
Ecological Model

- Individual/Baby/Child
- Family
- Community
- Society
Red Flags to Look For - Risk Factors

- Individual Factors Parents and Care Givers
  - Experienced child maltreatment, lack of bonding
- Child Factors
  - Unwanted, high needs, crying
- Relationship Factors
  - Family breakdown, isolation
- Community Factors
  - Poverty, tolerates violence, availability of drugs, alcohol, transient neighborhoods, inadequate policies or programs within Institutions
- Societal Factors
  - Policies that lead to poor living standards or socioeconomic inequality or instability, Social and cultural norms toward violence, pornography, etc.
What is our challenge

• We are in silos by the nature of our funding, mission, focus, and practice
  • Breakdown in definitions, terms, evaluation metrics, and analysis

• ROI: Demand for immediate results that may not be achievable under current structure or designated time frame

• The juxtaposition of proven effective, evidence based approaches and the need for innovation for integrated service delivery
“There is sufficient evidence, including in the scientific literature, to state with full confidence that child maltreatment can be prevented.”

Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence/ World Health Organization and International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
What is needed

Integrated, systematic, multisectoral approach on a prevention continuum...public health model

Elements of Approach
- Prevent the problem from occurring
- Detect the problem and respond when it does occur
- Minimize its long term negative impacts

Child Maltreatment
- Implement measures to prevent violence/neglect against children
- Detecting cases and intervening early
- Provide ongoing care to victims and families where maltreatment occurs
- Preventing the reoccurrence of violence
Public Health Approach - Build A System at every level of the Ecological Model

- Phased responses through a ecological model
- Promotion of well being and reduction of risk and dysfunction
Approaches to Prevention through an Ecological model

Resiliency
- Social competence
- Problem solving
- Autonomy
- Sense of purpose and belief in a bright future

Protective Factors
- Family Functioning
- Social Emotional Support
- Concrete Support
- Child Development
- Nurturing Parenting & Attachment
Continuum of Prevention - Building a System

Community Sectors

Prevention Strategies

Target: Ecological Rings

Dosage & Intensity

Primary: Prevent the problem from occurring

Secondary: Detect the problem and respond when it does occur

Tertiary: Preventing the reoccurrence of problem

Treatment and illness management
Society/community

- Legal and Criminal Justice Reform
- Provide early care and education opportunities
- Reduce unemployment and mitigate its adverse consequences
- Change societal norms around violence
- Train healthcare providers about prevention

Relationship

- Home visitation programs
- Parent education/training
- Access to high quality child care

Individual

- Reducing unintended pregnancies
- Increasing access to prenatal and postnatal services
- Training children to avoid potentially abusive situations
Available Training

• IowaACES360

• Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
  • Prevent Child Abuse Iowa is dedicated to enhancing the skills and knowledge of professionals working to prevent child abuse in the state.

• 2014 Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support Conference
  • Date: April 15-16
  • Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Response to ACEs
  • Stewards of Children
So What’s The Take Away?

• One program or strategy is not enough

• We need programs and at every level of prevention Primary, Secondary and Tertiary building protective factors and resilience

• Programs/strategies provided by various community sectors (Education, Social Services, Public Health, Law Enforcement, etc.)

• Services/strategies impacting every level of the ecological model (The individual, Family, Community, and Society)

• Utilizing an ACEs Lens and understanding
Resources

• A review of community efforts to mitigate and prevent adverse childhood experiences and trauma. *Chirstopher Blodgett, Ph.D., Washington State University Area Health Education Center*

• Preventing child maltreatment: A guide to taking action and generating evidence. *World Health Organization*

Thank You

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