Federal Perspective on Scaling Family-Focused Preventive Interventions

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SAMHSA’s Vision

America is a nation that understands and acts on the knowledge that...

- Behavioral health is essential to health.
- Prevention works.
- Treatment is effective.
- People recover.
SAMHSA’s Strategic Initiatives

→ AIM: Improving the Nation’s Behavioral Health
   1. Prevention
   2. Trauma and Justice
   3. Military Families
   4. Recovery Support

→ AIM: Transforming Health Care in America
   5. Health Reform
   6. Health Information Technology

→ AIM: Achieving Excellence in Operations
   7. Data, Outcomes, and Quality
   8. Public Awareness and Support
SAMHSA’s Strategic Initiative #1: Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness

Top Priorities

• Prevent substance abuse and improve well-being in states, territories, tribes
• Establish prevention of underage drinking as a priority issue for states, territories, tribal entities, colleges and universities, and communities.
• Increase public knowledge of the warning signs for suicide and actions to take in response.
• Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse.
Substance Abuse and Mental Illness Are Linked

Substance abuse and mental illness share risk and protective factors.

- Up to half of people with a serious mental illness will develop a substance use disorder at some time in their lives.
- Alcohol dependence is four times more likely to occur among adults with mental illness than among adults with no mental illness.
- Many health care systems to treat substance abuse and mental illness are disconnected: a missed opportunity.
Shared Strategies for SA/MH Prevention and Promotion

- Substance Abuse Prevention Strategies
- Mental Health Disorder Prevention
- & Mental Health Promotion Strategies
Goal: To foster the healthy development and wellness of all young children (birth through age 8), preparing them to thrive in school and beyond.
Project LAUNCH: Key Concepts

- Early childhood-focus
- Prevention and wellness promotion (not treatment)
- Expanding and enhancing (not reinventing)
- Linking across sectors/highly collaborative
- State/territorial/tribal and local partnerships
- Infusing mental health knowledge and expertise into all early childhood settings
Project LAUNCH Outcomes in Maine

- Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) promotes children’s wellness, birth to age 8.

- Maine’s project was funded in FY 2008:
  - Targets one of its rural and highly impoverished counties
  - Supports families with high-risk pregnancies
  - Data show promising results:
    - Rates of adequate prenatal care for teen mothers (ages 12-19) rose from 62 percent to 85 percent 4 years into the grant.
Health Reform Supports a Spectrum of Prevention and Treatment

- Physical/Emotional Health Promotion
- Prevention, including M/SUDs
- Universal
- Selective
- Indicated
- Case Identification
- Essential Health Benefits (EHBs)
- Treatment to Prevent Relapse & Recurrence
- Rehabilitative/habilitative services
Collaborative Opportunities

Public Health  →  Clinical Medicine
Substance Abuse  ↔  Mental Health
Prevention  ↔  Treatment
Collaboration: Foundation for Success

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Center for Mental Health Services
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

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