



EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION IN ILLINOIS

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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

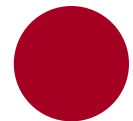
- Birth to Five Committee
- Children's Mental Health Act of 2003
 - Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership
 - 0-21, focus on prevention, promotion, early intervention and treatment
 - Early Childhood Committee
- Early Learning Council
- Strong Advocacy Groups





A HISTORY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

- Current systems using ECMHC:
 - Early Head Start and Head Start
 - Child Care: Caregiver Connections
 - Part C Early Intervention Social and Emotional Consultants
 - Violence Prevention: Safe from the Start
 - Early education: ISBE Consultants
 - Community Mental Health: ICMHP Children's Mental Health Consultation Project
 - Primary Care and Pediatrics: Enhancing Developmentally Oriented Primary Care
 - Family education and support: Strengthening Families Illinois
 - Home Visiting: ICMHP Early Childhood Home Visitation Consultation Project
 - Illinois Project Launch



FUNDING

- Funding on an individual project basis
 - no cross-funding across systems
- Most ECMHC projects are funded statewide
- ICMHP provides coordination across agencies, creating a link between all of the projects
- Allows for collaborative thinking about design, modifications, and implementation of ECMHC projects in Illinois



A NETWORK OF ECMH CONSULTANTS

- 4 Statewide ECMHC Retreats
- Development and implementation of Reflective Learning Groups
- Early Childhood Consultation Network
- A focus on professional development





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health
 - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Credential
- Two major training institutes for early childhood mental health in Illinois
- All consultation projects have a professional development component
- Different pathways to becoming a consultant
- Geographic considerations



LESSONS LEARNED

- We can create a collaborative approach across the “silos”
- Importance of private funding
- Trauma informed practice
- We need more evaluations on individual projects, and cross system
- Early childhood mental health referral resources are scarce



SUSTAINABILITY

- Imbedding skill
 - In consultants
 - In program supervisors
- Not just sustaining positions and dollars, but sustaining capacity to serve young children and families
- Key Partnerships



FUTURE PLANS:

- A focus on professional development
- Improved quality
- Home visiting federal initiative including consultation
- Need clarity about outcomes and data gathering
- Impacts of state funding crisis

