

Milwaukee National Family Week Partnership



Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Low-Income Youth in Milwaukee

Recently, there has been an increased interest in how well Milwaukee addresses mental health issues, especially for disadvantaged populations. A Mental Health Summit held in Milwaukee, in August 2004, sponsored by the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force reflected a growing concern in the community. A network of several organizations in Milwaukee has been working to better understand Milwaukee's capacity to address the mental health needs of low-income youth.

In the process of trying to understand our community's capacity to respond to the need for outpatient counseling and treatment for youth that are socio-economically disadvantaged, it became evident that several key questions needed to be answered:

- Who provides mental health services to low-income youth in Milwaukee
- How much service do we provide collectively
- How does the community's capacity for youth focused mental health services match the need of youth and families?

Currently, a community-wide, collaborative, including The Milwaukee National Family Week Partnership and several organizations (listed below), is co-sponsoring an important study to address these questions.

The study's co-sponsors include:

- *Child Welfare Philanthropy Group*
- *Health Committee of The Partnership Council*
 - *an advisory body to the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare*
- *Mental Health Association of Milwaukee*
- *Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force*
- *Milwaukee National Family Week Partnership*
- *Youth Mental Health Connections*

These networks of concerned organizations recognize the growing mismatch between mental health needs of disadvantaged youth and our community's ability to respond. In response to these needs, an initiative was launched partially supported with funding from the Annie E. Casey foundation (AECF) via the Alliance for Children and Families has begun. **The primary goal is to report the findings of the research at a summit, "Connections Count" on May 4, 2005 at Heartlove Place in Milwaukee.** A major goal of the summit is to develop an action plan focused on how youth serving organizations throughout the Milwaukee area can unite to better meet the needs of children and families.

Our goal is to invite summit participants from across the many sectors that impact the delivery of youth mental health services--community organizations, hospitals and other healthcare providers, schools, child welfare agencies, advocates for children and families, elected officials and parents. The summit is expected to draw 200 to 300 community participants.

The project has attracted local support from the Davis Family Foundation and other local community leaders who are helping to ensure this project is successful in its mission to making "Connections Count".

Aurora Family Services

The Counseling Center
of Milwaukee, Inc.

Milwaukee Women's Center

St. Aemilian-Lakeside

St. Charles Youth & Family Services

The Salvation Army-Milwaukee Social
Services

Social Development Commission

Sponsoring Organizations for Youth Mental Health Initiative

National Family Week Partnership

Aurora Family Services
Milwaukee Women's Center
Social Development Commission
St. Aemilian-Lakeside
St. Charles Youth and Family Services
The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
The Salvation Army

Health Committee of the Partnership Council

The council is a Governor appointed advisory committee to the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare.

Mental Health Association

The Mental Health Association is an affiliate of the National Mental Health Association their mission is to pursue a variety of programs that take mental health information to support groups, workplaces, senior centers and community organizations.

Milwaukee Child Welfare Philanthropy Group

Charles D. Jacobus Foundation
CSA Foundation
Davis Family Foundation
Elizabeth Brinn Foundation
Faye McBeath Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
The Brico Fund
The Johnson Foundation
Weiss Family Foundation

Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force

Abri Health Plan, Inc.
Aurora Behavioral Services
Aurora Health Care
Bellwood
Benedict Center
Community Advocates
Consumer Satisfaction Team
Depression and Bipolar Support Group
Health Care for the Homeless
Independence First
Justice 2000
Managed Health Services
MC Behavioral Health Department
Medical College of WI
MC Department on Aging
NAMI
OAMHSAPA
Our Space
Red Cross
Social Development Commission
St. Ann Center
State Public Defender
The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
Transitional Living Services
Tri-Corp Housing
United Healthcare/AmeriChoice
WarmLine
WCA
Wisconsin Community Services

Youth Mental Health Connections

Aurora Health Care
Charles E. Kubly Foundation
Children Service Society
COPE Services-Ozaukee County
Genesis Counseling Group
InHealth WI
Jerusalem Empowered Church
Marquette Counseling Center
Medical College of WI
Mental Health Association
Milwaukee Health Department
Milwaukee MH (MUTT)
MPS- Homeless Liaison
Ozaukee Family Services
Rogers Hospital
The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
The Youth and Family Project
United Community Center
UWM-Helen Bader SSW
WI Association for Prenatal Care

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