Next Step Developmental Clinic

Amy Van Hecke, Marquette University
Leah Jepson, Mental Health America of WI

A partnership between Marquette University, Mental Health America of WI, Milwaukee Coalition for Children’s Mental Health, Next Door Foundation, True Love Baptist Church, MIRACLE Network, MATC, United Way/Milwaukee Succeeds, UWM, Alverno College, MCW, and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.
How common are developmental and mental health challenges in children?

- **Developmental Disorders (Autism):**
  - 1 in 59 children has Autism
  - Almost all families had concerns about their children by 3 yrs. of age; but **only 47%** of the children were able to be diagnosed at that time. The other half were diagnosed much later.

- **Mental Health Disorders:**
  - 1 in 5 kids has a diagnosed mental health disorder

- Both issues are worsened by poverty and toxic stress
Autism Rates Continue to Rise

- CDC’s most recent report: 1 in 59 (MMWR, 4/27/18)
Mental Health Disorders

- 80% of chronic mental disorders begin in childhood.
- Experiencing trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and chronic, toxic stress can compound issues.
- There is a 2-4 year gap between onset of symptoms and development of disorder – early intervention matters!
- Mental and developmental health are related
  - Women who experience trauma are more likely to have children with developmental delay
  - Children with developmental delays are more likely to be victimized
Who Gets Help in WI?

- Parents of Black children report concerns about their child’s development, but are less likely to have a regular doctor or receive developmental screening.

- About 1/3 of children have had no comprehensive evaluation by 36 months of age, with children of color more likely to be missing out.

- Black and Hispanic children identified later, if at all.
  - Especially impacts low-income children of color.

- Children of color more likely to be misdiagnosed as intellectual disability or behavior/conduct problems, than autism or mental health disorders.
Barriers

- Coping with many, complex challenges
- Lack of access to knowledge or education about these issues—who has the “inside info” to get help
- Lack of access to professionals who can diagnose; Lack of access to treatments
- Not enough clinicians of color who understand the community
- Bias and misdiagnosis; Dismissal of concerns
- School-to-prison pipelines rather than developmental or mental health support
- Poverty; discrimination and institutionalized racism
- Stigma and misinformation, mistrust of systems of care
What can we do to help?

- Giving families a voice:
  - Family Advisory Panel

- Helping guide families through the maze:
  - Family Navigation

- Increasing mental and developmental care options in the neighborhoods where those who experience barriers live:
  - Next Step Clinic
  - Producing more qualified therapists to give care, through the Next Step Clinic Practicum
Giving Families a Voice
Coalition for Children’s Mental Health

- A cross-systems group of professionals, parents, and advocates based out of Mental Health America of WI

- Working to improve the mental health of children 0 – 8 in Milwaukee (and their families!)

- Developing partnerships and collaboratively seeking solutions to barriers to identification and care

- Advocating for the voices of lived experience in all that we do.

www.mkekids.org
Family Advisory Panel

- We are in the process of assembling a panel of family members affected by developmental and mental health challenges of their children or themselves.

- The panel will steer the services and structure of the new Next Step Clinic.
Helping with the Maze
WI has a rich system of autism services within AND outside of the school context.

However, services outside of school are only available if a child has a medical diagnosis of ASD.
- This type of diagnosis cannot/will not be done by schools
- Only licensed clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, or physicians can complete it

Many children transition form Birth to 3 to the school system and miss the pathway for the medical diagnosis of autism.

These children cannot access intensive, state-funded, evidence-based treatments for autism, which we know lead to positive outcomes.
Role of Family Navigators

- Helping families access autism and mental health screening for their child
- Ensuring that families know about the medical pathway and in-home services for autism
- Helping families access the medical evaluation/diagnosis of autism or mental health therapies for their child
- Assisting families in getting services for their child and family, in school and at-home
Providing More Options for Care
President’s Challenge: Impact of Leveraging Trusted Community and Marquette Resources

Next Step Clinic

Clinicians, Ethicists, Researchers, Students and Tech. Experts
Mental Health America Resources and Navigators
True Love Baptist Outreach
United Way Resources
Miracle Network Outreach
Next Door Foundation Space
Next Step Clinic

- [https://vimeo.com/312993240/3e3cbda6d4](https://vimeo.com/312993240/3e3cbda6d4)
- Located within a trusted community partner: Next Door (29th and Meinecke)
- A Family Advisory Board will steer clinic development, build trust, and empower families
- Family Navigation services
- Screening and diagnosis services:
  - Autism
  - Mental health challenges
- Therapy services:
  - Family-based therapies for trauma-related mental health challenges of children and parents

- Train clinicians of the future in both developmental/Autism care and trauma informed therapies/healing-centered engagement via practicum experience
Pipelines: Partnering with Birth to 3 and Churches

- All county Birth to 3 agencies will screen for autism and refer children with concerns to Next Step Navigators, who will help them access diagnosis and services.

- In 2013, we began partnering with General Baptist H.O.P.E. Ambassadors in training and identifying autism and helping families find services.
  - That partnership continues, and we have also included the MIRACLE network of churches in this effort.
  - Church communities can serve as the “boots on the ground” for helping find children with challenges, who are missed by Birth to 3 or schools.
Current Developmental/Mental Health Child Pathway

- Birth to 3
- Screening
- School Eligibility Evaluation (Educational Diagnosis)
- School Supports
NEW Next Step Developmental/Mental Health Child Pathway

- Birth to 3
- Screening
- Medical Diagnosis
- School Eligibility Evaluation (Educational Diagnosis)
- School Supports
- Clinical Therapies; Intensive Early Intervention

Community Partner Churches
Clinic Pathway

B-3 or Church Contacts screen children

B-3 or Church consults with Navigators for Children with Concerns

Families get Evaluation and Treatment at Next Step (or elsewhere)

Next Step Navigators Follow Up on Unmet Needs
Contact Us!

- **Family Navigators:**
  - Troney Small: troney.small@marquette.edu
  - Ida Winters: ida@mhawisconsin.org
  - Phone: (414) 288-3727 or email: autismhelp@marquette.edu

- **Clinic Directors:**
  - Amy Vaughan Van Hecke: amy.vanhecke@marquette.edu
  - Leah Jepson: leah@mhawisconsin.org

Next Step Clinic
Next Door Foundation, 2nd Floor
2545 N. 29th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210
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Our Team

- Leah Jepson, MHA
- Amy Van Hecke, MU
- Troney Small, MU
- Ida Winters, MHA
- Dessie Levy, True Love Outreach Ministries
- Walter Lanier, MATC/MIRACLE
- Tracey Sparrow, Next Door
- Martina Gollin Graves, MHA
- Tim Coughlin, United Way/Milw Succeeds
- Ernestine Willis, CHW
- Norah Johnson, MU
- Abir Bekhet, MU
- Iqbal Ahamed, MU
- Wendy Krueger, MU
- Alexandre Martins, MU
- Lynne Knobloch-Fedders, MU
- Steve Saunders, MU
- Linda Menck, MU
- Mary Carlson, MU
- Myah Herro, Alverno

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