Early Childhood Mental Health Resources at National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)

Cross-Systems Collaboration for Children’s Social-Emotional Development -- NASHP meeting Chicago, Ill

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Early Childhood Team at NCCP

- We promote policies that benefit low-income children and families from the prenatal period through age eight

- We focus on policies that affect young children’s health, mental health, and early learning – policies affecting school and life success

- Since young children’s well-being depends on the adults that care for them, we pay attention to policies that affect parents and early childhood teachers
50-State Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Medicaid Survey

- **Goal:** To learn about the extent of Medicaid coverage for key ECMH services across the states and policies related to access and quality

- 47 states participated in survey conducted as an interview with state Medicaid administrators

- Conducting follow-up interviews with 9 states (CO, ND, MN, NM, OR, CA, AR, IA, FL)
Topics

- Are services covered by Medicaid?
  - Child Social-Emotional screening
  - Parent Depression Screening
  - Dyadic Treatment
  - ECMH Consultation in Pediatric Settings
  - ECMH in Home Settings
  - ECMH Consultation in ECE settings
  - ECMH Case-management

- Polices related to coverage: e.g., how eligibility is determined; requirements for use of evidence-based tool or practice; allowed frequency; allowed settings)
Using the findings

Screening

- 39 states (83%) pay for social-emotional screening of young children with a specific tool; eight states (17%) do not pay for screening.
  - 14 (36%) place no restrictions on tool.

- Nine states (19%) pay for depression screening of parents/guardians under child’s Medicaid; 38 states (81%) do not pay for screening.
  - 2 (22%) place no restrictions on tool.
Using the findings, cont.

Treatment

- 36 states (77%) pay for dyadic (parent-child) treatment; 11 states (23%) do not

- 10 states (28%) require providers to use an evidenced-based dyadic treatment model; 26 states (72%) do not

- 44 states (94%) pay for services in the home setting to address a young child's mental health needs; three states (6%) do not
Maine Social-Emotional Development Survey for ECE Teachers and Child Care Providers

- Part of larger study assigned by the legislature’s Education Committee to Maine Children’s Growth Council; NCCP, Ounce of Prevention, Zero To Three named as contributors to study

- Topics of on-line survey for ECE teachers/providers
  - Challenging behaviors teachers see
  - What teachers try and challenges they face
  - Impacts of challenging behavior
  - Supports teachers want
Using the Findings

- Survey working well to show
  - Percent teachers reporting that children left programs due to challenging behavior in past year – varies across program
  - Percent teachers reporting that challenging behavior results in negative impacts on other children’s learning opportunities and teachers’ ability to attend to other children’s needs
  - Supports teachers/providers want -- ECMH consultation, professional development, and assistance for families.

- Can share survey, assist with adaptation and use
Resource for Assessing Policies

Set of Policy Templates

- Used to assess strengths/gaps in current policies affecting supports for children’s social-emotional growth in early care and education settings
  - Professional Development
  - ECMH Consultation
  - Family Engagement
  - Screening
  - Early Intervention
  - Expulsion Prevention
Other NCCP Resources

- Early Care and Education Research Connections: www.researchconnections.org

- Early Childhood State Policy Profiles www.nccp.org/profiles/early_childhood.html

- Young Child Risk Calculator www.nccp.org/tools/risk/

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National Center for Children in Poverty website: www.nccp.org