TEAM UP for Children: Transforming and Expanding Access to Mental Health in Urban Pediatrics for Children

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Background

- TEAM UP for Children is a 4-year, $10M initiative to co-create and test an innovative model of fully integrated pediatric health care in three Massachusetts federally qualified health centers: Codman Square Health Center, Dimock Health Center, and Lowell Community Health Center and support those centers in reaching a level 6 standard of collaboration within the SAMSHA standard framework for integrated healthcare.
- Grounded in the belief that access to services to promote behavioral health and to strengthen families is a social justice issue, TEAM UP seeks to meet the needs of community members that have experienced multiple challenges in their home countries or local communities, from trauma and racism to poverty and violence
- TEAM UP builds infrastructure and capacity within the health centers, drawing upon their strength as anchoring, culturally-competent institutions that share this mission, and that have come together to develop a sustainable, adaptable, and replicable model of integrated health care

Aim

To promote positive child health and well-being through innovation and consistent delivery of evidence-based integrated care. TEAM UP’s vision is that all children and families live within a community that fosters and promotes physical and behavioral health, wellness, and resilience.

TEAM UP seeks to accomplish this by:

- Building integrated care capacity through therapeutic teams of primary care providers, clinicians, prescribers, and community health workers (CHWs) within pediatric primary care sites
- Creating a learning community to support evidence-based identification, prevention, and management of child behavioral health disorders, and technical support in practice transformation

TEAM UP Guiding Principles:

- Family-centered, Community-connected Care
- Population Health Approach
- Stepped Care Model
- Team-Based Care
- Build Capacity
- Continuous Quality Improvement Framework

Approach

- TEAM UP uses a learning community approach to inform process and clinical models using best practices and adaptations to fit the cultural context of each community
- The TEAM UP collaboration focuses on workforce development for all primary care team roles, practice transformation, strategies to maximize reimbursement, and evaluation metrics in support of continuous quality improvement
- TEAM UP is grounded in a stepped care model, using evidence-based behavioral health screening and treatment strategies that can be implemented in an integrated care setting, and the collective experience of the collaborating health centers in the areas of community engagement, process improvement and innovative care

Steped Care Model

- Link to Specialty Care
- Treatment within Primary Care
- Indicated Prevention
- Selective Prevention
- Universal Prevention

As part of the collaboration, a 3-year quality improvement effort and 2-year educational curriculum have been developed and are being implemented to train members of the care team in a team-based approach to integrated care including:

- Support for primary care clinicians in prescribing and management of behavioral health disorders
- Training for integrated clinicians in evidence-based short-term therapies appropriate for primary care settings
- Training for CHWs in integrated care management

Expected Outcomes

TEAM UP implementation began June 2016. Baseline data has been collected and outcomes are being tracked via electronic health records, payer data, and stakeholder interviews in four areas:

1) Health center capacity to track and treat those at risk for, or experiencing, childhood mental illness
   - screening, referral, time to care, symptom management
2) Child and family user experience within integrated care
   - satisfaction, care and social service needs met
3) Cost analysis of integrated model
   - ED visits, prescription costs, total medical expenditures
4) Model implementation and dissemination
   - Provider confidence, achievement of fully-integrated care

Success Will Look Like…

- Increased capacity to prevent & treat child mental illness
- Consistent use of safe & effective treatment
- Reduced mental illness symptoms & duration
- Less functional impairment
- Improved health & learning outcomes
- Increased school attendance
- Reduced overall system costs
- Fewer mental health-related ER visits

Conclusions

The findings from TEAM UP for Children are anticipated to provide a detailed roadmap of pediatric integrated care for providers, payers, policymakers, and professional organizations.

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