



Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH)

**Mid Year Progress Report
Grant Year 3**

**Reporting Period:
October 1, 2014 – March 15, 2015**

Mental Health Promotion Branch
Division of Prevention, Traumatic Stress and Special Programs
Center for Mental Health Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services

Section 1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND KEY CONTACTS

Project Identification Information

- A. Please note the year that your grant was awarded.
September 2012
- B. Grant Number: 1H79SM061297-02
Project Name: Florida Project LAUNCH
Grantee Organization: Florida Department of Children and Families

Grantee Staff Contact Information

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Section 2, PART I: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Table 1. Screening and Assessment in a Range of Child-serving Settings

List any NEW assessment tools being used since the last reporting period and individuals/ages with whom they are being used (e.g. pregnant women, children birth to 3, etc.):

Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHCP, Federally Qualified Health Center) provides screening and assessment in the primary health care setting utilizing the Sensory Checklist (Biel & Peske, 2005), a screening tool used to help determine potential sensory issues to be addressed. The age range starts with birth and can be used with adults as well. The screening asks questions pertaining to certain sensory issues for both gross and fine motor areas. This tool is newly implemented at CHCP for use with all consumers and does not replace a previously reported screening.

There are no other changes in assessment tools.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

All LAUNCH providers continue to provide previously reported screenings and assessments. Providers and partners are also increasing participation in community screening events and outreach activities which provide an opportunity to engage with the public on the importance of screening and the kinds of services available for various needs. LAUNCH is continuing, for the seventh consecutive quarter, to substantially exceed screening and referral goals.

Infrastructure Development Indicators		
Indicator	FFY 2014-2015	
	FFY Goal	Quarter 1 Actual
The number of individuals screened for mental health or related interventions.	60	176
The number of individuals referred to mental health or related services.	30	50

B. Challenges/Barriers

Local Council partners identify lack of sufficient numbers of intensive service providers as a major challenge to screening and referring children and their families. In particular, the area lacks services that prevent early concerns from developing into serious problems later. Local partners have identified Child Parent Psychotherapy, a relationship-based intervention for trauma in children under age 5 that improves developmental trajectory, as a needed addition to capacity in Pinellas County. This intervention is listed in U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). The State Council Professional Workforce Development workgroup is collaborating with local partners to identify opportunities to increase the capacity of professionals in the Pinellas area to provide the services LAUNCH families most need. These opportunities may include collaboration to provide training in Child Parent Psychotherapy, and other early interventions.

C. Lessons Learned

LAUNCH strengthened the partnership developed early in the grant cycle with the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas (JWB), a municipal funding and planning agency. JWB offered their service tracking system as a platform for creating a unified, multi-agency database for tracking assessments for LAUNCH families. This is an important activity identified in the Local Strategic Plan. Achieving this step will help the agencies serving LAUNCH families reduce duplication in screening and assessment, and focus on helping families access services.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- LAUNCH staff will work with providers and the Councils to identify training and technical assistance to improve assessment and facilitation of referrals;
- The State and Local Councils will collaborate to bring capacity-building training in early intervention services to the Pinellas area; and
- LAUNCH will work with JWB and providers to implement the use of the multi-agency database among LAUNCH partners.

Table 2. Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care Settings

Describe any changes to the EBP/program model being used since the last reporting period:

No changes to report.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

Working as a team, the Case Manager and the Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) provide behavioral health and case management services to families identified through CHCP health services. The LCSWs provide screening, assessment, and family and individual brief intervention. The Case Manager meets at least once with each family receiving counseling to screen for additional needs and refer for social, health, and educational services. During the reporting period, each LCSW maintains a case load of twenty-five to thirty per month. The Case Manager maintains a caseload of twenty to twenty-five per month.

In addition to caseload, the Case Manager participates in monthly community screening events for consumers lacking primary care. The Case Manager, in collaboration with speech therapists, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, behavioral health providers, a vision professional, and a hearing professional, provided developmental and behavioral screenings for twenty-five to thirty children at each of four monthly screening events. The Case Manager and LCSW meet with the pediatric team weekly to discuss and plan ways to improve the integration of behavioral health and to better serve consumers. This multidisciplinary collaboration is transforming practice at CHCP and improving behavioral and medical outcomes for consumers.

CHCP partners with Operation PAR to provide a therapeutic support group utilizing the Nurturing Parenting curricula. CHCP hosts the program and provides a concurrent children's play therapy session for those families that are involved in the group. The LCSWs teach the children social skills, and provide co-facilitation to the parent group. The LCSWs' presence also ensures immediate response to any crises that may arise. The LCSWs also provide consultation services to early care and education facilities in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas. See Table 4 for more detail.

B. Challenges/Barriers

CHCP is contracted to have 2.0 full time (FTE) on-site LCSWs. One of the contracted LCSWs resigned effective October 2014, and was replaced March 2015.

The LCSWs and Case Manager continue to struggle with a high no show rate. The population that has the highest no-show rate are obstetric consumers. The LCSWs and Case Manager have discussed scheduling obstetric consumers for case management services and therapy sessions on the same day as an obstetric appointment. Most consumers experience transportation issues but transportation incentives have not worked to help lower the no show rate. The Case Manager, when available, will check on obstetric consumers as they come in for their obstetric appointments to ensure compliance with an upcoming session with the LCSWs.

Another obstacle identified would be the length of wait time for other community resources. Many clients have a difficult time following through with goals in their case management and therapy sessions due to waiting periods for the community resources. One example involves a family experiencing homelessness looking for housing. Because the emergency housing resources are full, the family must wait to be placed in a shelter. When a family is in this crisis it makes it more difficult for them to keep appointments and to work on established goals. To help decrease the wait times for community services, the Case Manager and the LCSWs actively seek out information about shelters and programs to help families in need.

C. Lessons Learned

Pediatric providers at CHCP are working cooperatively with the Case Manager to help families in need of early intervention services navigate the referral process. This is increasing the number of referrals and reducing the time it takes to initiate services. Many families have difficulty completing these early intervention service referrals due to missed appointments or changing contact information. Ensuring external linkages through the integrated care team has improved timely access to needed services.

The addition of a child psychiatrist to the CHCP facility has greatly increased the utilization of LCSWs and Case Managers. CHCP staff are now able to help families with children receiving diagnoses like Autism and to prescribe medication for behavioral health concerns. The LCSWs and Case Manager are expanding their caseloads to take on non-LAUNCH individuals or families through alternate funding streams. This allows them to be utilized by all practices at CHCP.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

Over the next six months, planned activities include:

- LAUNCH is revising provider contracts to ensure performance measures are consistent with program goals;
- The Local Council will continue implementation of multi-agency data sharing; and
- LAUNCH staff and the Local Council will plan and host training for providers and community partners to

increase capacity for behavioral health integration in Pinellas County.

Table 3. Enhanced Home Visiting Through Increased Focus on Social and Emotional Well-being

Describe any changes to the EBP/program models being used since the last reporting period:

No changes to report.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

The Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas (HSCP) provides Parents as Teachers Plus (PAT+) home visiting services to LAUNCH families. PAT+ has expanded their capacity to serve families by adding a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) to their staff to provide in-home clinical services. This service component, through other funding streams, has increased access to mental health services for PAT+ participants. PAT+ has also hired a Registered Nurse (RN), in partnership with the Pinellas County Health Department who provides health information and care and ensures participants receive well care checkups.

B. Challenges/Barriers

PAT+ participants most significantly lack transportation to get to medical appointments. This is not a barrier to the home visiting service, but can hinder follow-up for referrals.

C. Lessons Learned

The overlay services provided by the RN and LMHC have helped eliminate barriers to additional care. There is an opportunity in this model for collaborative services between community providers if a home visiting provider is unable to retain these staff. In-home delivery of integrated services may be an option in some communities, and LAUNCH will be considering this as planning for expansion proceeds.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- HSCP will continue to collaborate with the Community Health Centers of Pinellas to provide access for our families to affordable medical care;
- The Local Council will continue to partner with area child care providers and funders to provide additional child care slots for use by LAUNCH families; and
- PAT+ staff will continue parent engagement efforts.

Table 4. Mental Health Consultation in Early Care and Education

Describe any changes to the EBP/program models being used since the last reporting period:

No changes to report.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

ECMHC was fully implemented in January 2015, as reported previously, with several child care facilities receiving services in the second quarter of FFY 2014-2015.

B. Challenges/Barriers

There is a lack of understanding in the community of the nature and capacity for ECMHC to improve services in child serving settings. LAUNCH partners and the LCSWs will work to increase knowledge of this service and prepare child care facilities to utilize the service.

C. Lessons Learned

Data are being collected on the first quarter of ECMHC through LAUNCH. A complete analysis will not be possible until the end of Year 3.

<p>D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LCSWs will continue providing ECMHC services in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC); • LAUNCH will support the service through access to technical assistance for the LCSWs; and • LAUNCH will promote the services available through training for clinicians who might be interested in providing similar services and training for child care facilities in appropriate utilization of this service.
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Table 5. Family Strengthening and Parent Skills Training

<p>Describe any changes to the EBP/program models being used since the last reporting period: No changes to report.</p>
<p>A. Major Activities and Accomplishments During the reporting period, Operation PAR delivered three trainings on Motivational Interviewing, training 113 participants. Operation PAR also delivered two trainings on Trauma Informed Care, training 20 participants, in the Lealman Corridor. In addition, this provider has partnered with CHCP to implement Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for substance abuse at additional locations. Operation PAR is pursuing additional funding streams to expand the Nurturing Parenting support groups through state and local sources. Additional Nurturing Parenting support groups may be offered in partnership with the ELC in child care facilities receiving the ELC coaching.</p>
<p>B. Challenges/Barriers Operation PAR continues to face challenges in engaging with families. This challenge has been improved through partnership with CHCP. Families that are successfully engaged are enthusiastic about services.</p>
<p>C. Lessons Learned Collaboration can only be built with time and trust. Operation PAR, Inc., Suncoast Center, ELC, and CHCP have developed relationships over time and have achieved collaboration through numerous projects, some within the Lealman Corridor, supporting LAUNCH consumers and others throughout the community. Collaboration through LAUNCH has improved services for families by streamlining knowledge and referrals.</p>
<p>D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation PAR will continue Nurturing Parenting support groups; • LAUNCH staff and local partners will continue recruiting families for groups and other engagement activities; • Operation PAR will assist with identifying parents interested in serving on the Local Council; and • LAUNCH will deliver additional parent engagement and cultural and linguistic competence training in the target area.

Table 6. Teaching Pyramid and Positive Behavior Supports in early care

<p>Describe any changes to the EBP/program models being used since the last reporting period: No changes to report.</p>
<p>A. Major Activities and Accomplishments ELC is partnering with the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Family Study Center to develop and deliver training on trauma informed quality care in child care facilities and elementary education. This training, under an</p>

initiative of the newly formed Trauma Informed Quality Care Committee of Pinellas, will be delivered to child care instructors and administrators, family child care home providers, and elementary teachers.

B. Challenges/Barriers

One barrier that the coaches have encountered is getting parents to sign the consent for services. Another barrier is the lack of follow through at the parent level. The coaches can make referrals but it has been the parent's responsibility to make any necessary appointments. LAUNCH is working with providers to increase feasibility of facilitated referrals for families.

An ongoing challenge has been support at the Director/Owner level to follow through with the training and coaching. The project specialists support the center as much as possible through site visits, phone calls & email support. ELC committed to moving towards a more program wide model so that by the end of Cohort 3, expectantly 75% of the center will have completed the PBS program. Research has shown that the program wide model is more effective in reducing child expulsions and teacher turn over. In the draft planning of our commitment to specialized care providers, we will help navigate the plan for a program wide model in the coming Coalition fiscal year.

Recruiting within the assigned zip codes has continued to be an obstacle. It seems that the centers would welcome the coaching but find it difficult to attend evening trainings and be responsible for completing extra screenings and data collections. The project specialists continue to reach out to those centers to offer assistance and provide referrals when necessary.

The requirements for completing reports, tracking and analyzing data, communicating locally, supervising, participating in numerous meetings, coordinating with evaluators and preparing documents continues to be quite a workload challenge on the program supervisor. The administrative costs of participation in LAUNCH were underestimated, and ELC is working with partners and leveraging other resources to meet these expenses. LAUNCH staff are working to streamline reporting and other grant administration tasks to reduce the burden on providers.

C. Lessons Learned

Program accomplishments include ongoing changes to teaching practices in the selected child care facilities, i.e., improvements to daily teaching strategies, permanent environmental changes (classroom arrangement to improve transitions from activities, improved accessibility to learning objects for children, program schedule alterations, staffing coordination, visual cues for children to follow throughout the classroom), increased knowledge base of child development, understanding of human temperament, brain development and behavior motivations. The coaches are responding to child care instructors' feedback and will be infusing best practices targeting management of trauma-based behaviors into the coaching.

The majority of children in LAUNCH funded program classrooms receive teacher and coach coordinated developmental screenings that are included along with professional judgment and observation with referrals for further evaluation and interventions. The goal is the reduction or elimination of expulsions of children from these programs due to behavior challenges that may derive from exposure to drugs or family trauma. Through family engagement activities, earlier identification of developmental concerns has occurred. As a result, children and families who may have not been screened without this project have qualified for a variety of services.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- ELC is preparing to infuse intentional trauma informed best practices to the coaching;
- ELC will expand efforts to increase family engagement and education; and
- ELC will continue to recruit the next cohort, which is due to begin in July 2015.

Section 2, PART II: INFRASTRUCTURE & SYSTEMS CHANGE ACTIVITIES

1. Briefly describe highlights of your workforce development activities during the past six months:

- LAUNCH has worked with providers and partners to identify professional development needs in the target community and received approval for carryover funding to support training. LAUNCH will deliver these trainings at no cost to the local community.
- LAUNCH has streamlined a formal communication structure to strengthen collaboration between the State and Local Councils. This communication structure will facilitate additional support to the local community.
- The State level Professional Workforce Development workgroup is collaborating with local partners to identify opportunities for developing a central hub for early childhood professional development to serve the local community and professionals across the state.
- LAUNCH is partnering with the Florida Children’s Mental Health System of Care (SOC) Expansion Grant and Florida Help Me Grow to expand outreach to physicians and medical staff in Florida communities regarding social emotional development and integration of care. Leveraging these partnerships creates an opportunity to give a consistent message to these potential partners.

2. Briefly describe highlights of your public education/social marketing activities over the last six months:

- LAUNCH staff and providers participated in a local Adopt-A-Block event at the Lealman PAL (Police Athletic League) complex in March. Many community agencies were represented and the event drew more than 100 families and community members. The Adopt-A-Block volunteers have been instrumental in getting the LAUNCH materials out into the Lealman community. Most recently they have been distributing the Project LAUNCH door hangers throughout the neighborhoods in the identified zip codes. The door hangers were printed in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- LAUNCH staff are working with the social marketing workgroups for the SOC grant to develop collaborative strategies for public information.
- LAUNCH staff submitted and received approval for carryover funding to develop and print outreach materials. Staff will collaborate with the Councils and partners to ensure these materials meet gaps in public information.
- State Council Professional Workforce Development and Strengthening Families workgroups are partnering to develop a comprehensive list of webinars on LAUNCH core strategies that can be targeted to professional and family audiences. These will be hosted in a single, accessible web location when the central hub organization has been established.

3. Briefly describe your efforts to collaborate with substance abuse prevention and substance abuse treatment providers or experts in your community if any have been undertaken in the last six months:

LAUNCH collaborates with Tranquil Shores, LLC, a substance abuse recovery facility serving adults, to identify opportunities for services to adults experiencing substance abuse with young children. The facility has an affiliation with Tranquil Shores Children’s Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. These partners are working to leverage resources in the community and provide additional services to LAUNCH families.

In addition to Operation PAR and HSCP, who specialize in substance abuse prevention and treatment, other substance abuse providers are also represented on the State Council. The State Council representative from DISC Village, a substance abuse treatment provider, co-chairs the Strengthening Families workgroup and is helping to guide the public and professional webinar series being developed for LAUNCH and ensure that outreach information represents the substance abuse focus of LAUNCH.

4. Briefly describe your 2-3 **greatest accomplishments** in creating improvements to the early childhood system in your state/Tribe/jurisdiction/community in the last six months:

The following outcomes have been accomplished during Quarter 1 of Federal Fiscal year (FFY) 2014-2015:

Infrastructure Development Indicators		
Indicator	FFY 2014-2015	
	FFY Goal	Quarter 1 Actual
The number of people receiving evidence-based mental health-related services as a result of the grant.	500	231
The number of (new) organizations collaborating/coordinating/sharing resources with other organizations as a result of the grant.	20	2

These indicators are on track to meet or exceed annual goals. Outcomes for Quarter 2 will not be available until July 1, 2015.

LAUNCH has partnered with several groups to increase outreach to community members and parents. Federation of Families of Florida, the Juvenile Welfare Board Family Oriented Concept Unified to Serve (FOCUS) community partnership with faith-based and advocacy organizations, United Methodist Cooperative Ministries Suncoast, and other partners have each joined with LAUNCH to initiate creative solutions to challenges facing families in the target area and increase parent involvement in advocacy through LAUNCH and the child serving system as a whole.

LAUNCH is also collaborating with the following community partners around nutritional issues:

- Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger and the Lealman Asian Neighborhood Family Center - provide six-week Cooking Matters classes to families;
- Truck Farm Tampa - coordinate delivery of fresh produce at four locations in the Lealman community through the Garden Truck program; and
- Eckerd College and Lealman United Methodist Church - recreate a community garden with area students.

These and other partnerships that coalesce community support around nutritional issues bring new opportunities for holistic support of families' complex needs.

5. Briefly describe your 2-3 **greatest challenges** in creating improvements to the early childhood system in your state/Tribe/jurisdiction/community in the last six months and what you have done or will do to overcome these challenges:

LAUNCH has experienced significant staffing changes in recent months. The resignation of the Young Child Wellness Partner and Young Child Wellness Coordinator in December and March respectively has required significant attention. These positions have been filled, and LAUNCH is working to maintain momentum.

The local staff change was able to be made very quickly, preventing any interruption of Local Council activities. The Department was able to identify a candidate with extensive experience and relationships with the local provider and partner network, ensuring reduced transition time.

LAUNCH continues to experience challenges relating to ensuring accessibility of state budget authority to utilize funds when there is a shift in anticipated activities. LAUNCH staff have been working with the Department to streamline revenue and budget processes for LAUNCH and other discretionary grants. These efforts are not yet complete, but they are already showing results in improved communication and more responsiveness to needs for fiscal flexibility. While the bulk of this work may not yield ideal results during the LAUNCH tenure, future grants, and potentially all Department programs, will benefit from the improvements made.

6. Briefly describe any NEW ways in which successful LAUNCH strategies or practices have been replicated, expanded or implemented in other communities in the last six months as a result of this grant:

As detailed above, Operation PAR is working with community partners and developing resources to expand the Nurturing Parenting support groups.

LAUNCH has identified opportunities to present information on programs and successes to professional audiences through conferences and online training. These efforts over the coming months will assist in identifying communities prepared to implement LAUNCH programs utilizing local resources.

Section 3: EVALUATION UPDATE

If your evaluation plan has changed in any significant ways in the last six months, please describe:

No changes to report.