



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

Mid-Year Progress Report

Florida

Reporting Period:

October 1, 2015 – March 15, 2016

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: SM061297
Project Name: Florida Project LAUNCH
Grantee Organization: Florida Department of Children and Families

Grantee Staff Contact Information

- A. Project Director
- Name/Title: William Hardin
Email william.hardin@myflfamilies.com
- B. Persons completing this form (if different from or in addition to the Project Director)
- Name/Title: Lily Wells, Grant Manager
Role (e.g. Expert, Local Coordinator, Local Evaluator): Expert
- Name/Title: Ji'Lynda Walls, Department of Health Liaison
Role (e.g. Local Coordinator, Local Evaluator): Partner
- Name/Title: Suzanne McAree
Role (e.g. Local Coordinator, Local Evaluator): Local Coordinator

Section 2, PART I: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In the tables below please provide information on services delivered in the first six months of the grant year (Oct, 2015 through March, 2016). Two to three bullets per section is recommended.

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.):

Suncoast Center, Inc (Suncoast, community mental health provider) has added the following tools to provide screening and assessment on-site at the Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHCP, Federally Qualified Health Center):

- Perinatal Depression Screening (pregnant women/mothers);
- HITS Domestic Violence Screening (caregivers); and
- DAST Substance Abuse Screening (caregivers).

Early Learning Coalition (ELC, Education Provider): Looking Beyond Behavior program has added the following tools to provide screening and assessment in early childhood education centers:

- Social-Emotional Assessment/Evaluation Measure (SEAM) (children birth to age five in child care centers).

All other assessment tools previously reported are still in use.
<p>A. Major Activities and Accomplishments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELC has adopted the SEAM assessment in a variety of settings. This tool is used to develop more intensive behavior plans. • Operation PAR provided training to local cross-disciplinary professionals in motivational interviewing to improve consumer engagement from assessment and referrals.
<p>B. Challenges/Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenings performed with families at CHCP that do not enroll in Suncoast services are no longer reported to LAUNCH due to the lack of a shared electronic health record following the contract changes. Medical staff at CHCP are providing screening and assessment integrated into primary care, but LAUNCH is no longer capturing data for all families at CHCP. • Funding delays for Help Me Grow have resulted in 211 Tampa Bay Cares delaying the publication information on caregiver depression screening on their website.
<p>C. Lessons Learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suncoast is working with the public school system to develop strategies for screening young children for behavioral health concerns in order to increase referrals for needed services. • LAUNCH will be working with partners to increase training opportunities in evidence-based assessment tools and promote screening. However, a needs assessment must be completed first in order to identify tools currently used and provider perception of training needs. This will enable LAUNCH to assess what training is most needed and what outreach methods will be most effective.
<p>D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suncoast will continue working with 211 Tampa Bay Cares, CHCP, and other partners to improve data sharing. • LAUNCH staff and the Screening and Early Intervention Workgroup will be distributing a survey to collect information about what providers are providing screenings to caregivers and young children and which tools are being used. The purpose of this survey is to identify providers offering screenings, whether validated instruments are being used, what training providers have to deliver screenings, and other information in order to establish a baseline to prepare for outreach, professional development, and other activities to support expanded early childhood and caregiver screenings.

Table 2. Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care Settings
<p>Describe any changes to the EBP/program model being used since the last reporting period: No changes.</p>
<p>A. Major Activities and Accomplishments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suncoast has secured federal, state, and local funding streams to sustain integrated behavioral health services after the grant ends. • LAUNCH has facilitated training of school health staff statewide in behavioral health topics to improve their ability to identify and respond to challenges students are facing. Training was provided between October and December at each of five regional School Health Partners

Workshops hosted in Chipley, Ocala, Ft. Myers, Kissimmee, and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

B. Challenges/Barriers

- Transportation barriers still exist, but have been greatly reduced thanks to in-home services and extended office hours.
- Families experience reduced barriers in receiving medication management due to integrated psychiatric services.

C. Lessons Learned

- Through extended hours and in-home provision of services, Suncoast staff are able to reduce barriers for families while maintaining integrated services with CHCP.
- Suncoast staff have been successful in engaging parents with the local council. They have also successfully referred families to the Nurturing Parenting Support Group and to the informal support groups started by LAUNCH parent leaders. The building of rapport, especially through reducing barriers, increases trust and facilitates engagement.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- Suncoast will continue training medical staff at CHCP and other local medical clinics on behavioral health integration.
- LAUNCH will provide further training of school health staff and other school personnel and administrators. This training, detailed below in the professional development section, will improve integration of health care delivered in school environments and increase the skill of educators in responding to student behavioral health needs.

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.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

- Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas County's Parents as Teachers Plus (PAT+) program continues to collaborate with partners in the Lealman Corridor area, receiving referrals for consumers who present with substance abuse issues. PAT+ provides referrals to the CHCP for primary care for participants.
- PAT+ provides in-home clinical services to participants through the on-staff licensed mental health counselor. Concerns often center on trauma experienced, relationship issues, depression, and anxiety. PAT+ works closely with the community mental health providers to ensure any psychiatric medication needs are met.
- PAT+ continues to provide families with in-home medical screenings and inter-conception care through the on-staff Registered Nurse. PAT+ partners with the Pinellas County Health Department and the CHCP to ensure mothers receive well care checkups.
- The January Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Benchmark Review revealed that PAT+ is meeting or exceeding the following benchmarks: discussing safety topics with families; screening for child maltreatment; and completing ASQ developmental screenings, domestic violence screenings, and depression screenings.

B. Challenges/Barriers

- The January MIECHV Benchmark Review revealed that PAT+ needs to improve documentation of domestic violence referrals/safety plans and increase the number of home visits per month.
- Family engagement and retention continues to be a big concern. The PAT+ Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team will be working to increase engagement over the next several months.
- Other challenges to engagement are lack of transportation for participants to get to medical appointments and to group connections. Home visits are not affected, but follow-up for other referrals is often hindered by this obstacle.

C. Lessons Learned

- PAT+ began participating in the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) COIIN PDSA evaluation project on November 23rd. Through this project, PAT+ is measuring the number of new referrals made and the number of women that keep the first appointment with the Parent Educator.
- PAT+ Team invited the Operation PAR (PAR) Village (residential substance abuse treatment for women with children) team for a lunch and learn to deepen collaboration and streamline visits with resident families. PAT+ has received an increase in referrals from PAR Village since the session (12 in March). At the session, PAR Village and PAT+ staff agreed to have PAR staff coordinate home visits, resulting in more completed visits per month.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- PAT+ is developing a formal collaborative agreement with Operation PAR and Alpha House of Pinellas, a residential maternity program for homeless women and teens and others in crisis.
- PAT+ will continue to collaborate with the Community Health Centers of Pinellas to provide access for our families to affordable medical care.
- PAT+ will continue to work with the community to provide services to pregnant and parenting individuals experiencing substance abuse by completing the goals specified in the updated Strategic Plan.
- The PAT+ CQI Team will work to improve family engagement outcomes, specifically enrollment and retention.

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.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

- Suncoast provided outreach to elementary schools and child care centers to increase requests for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC).
- LAUNCH staff have developed contract language in preparation for the ECMHC Learning Collaborative. Funding through a Carryover request has been approved.

B. Challenges/Barriers

- Lack of knowledge about ECMHC is a barrier to service delivery. Suncoast and other partners have been working to increase understanding of the service. At the state level, the ECMHC Learning Collaborative implementation team will be developing strategies to increase awareness of this service and the role it can play in the early childhood system of care. This will include a guidance document that has been drafted which will give providers information on delivering this

service in line with best practices.

- The implementation of the ECMHC Learning Collaborative was delayed, but partners are still invested and eager to move forward.

C. Lessons Learned

- Collaborations with the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions and Head Start at the state level have yielded opportunities to expand the ECMHC Learning Collaborative, and consultants will be trained to work in a variety of settings, including homevisiting, early care and education, and others.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- ECMHC Learning Collaborative contract will be executed, and training and technical assistance delivered beginning in summer of 2016.
- Suncoast and ELC will continue coordinating efforts to expand delivery of ECMHC.

Table 5. Family Strengthening and Parent Skills Training

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

Operation PAR is collaborating with ELC to recruit parents and deliver *Nurturing Parenting* Support Groups (NPSG) at ELC sites. Operation PAR is also working to implement *I Can Problem Solve* (ICPS), a universal primary prevention program that helps children ages 4-7 learn perspective-taking, alternative solution thinking, and consequential thinking; and, helps children 8 and older learn recognizing mixed emotions, understanding motives, and means-end thinking. ICPS is listed in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). Adding this curriculum to the children's group offered concurrently to parents participating in the NPSG is expected to improve the ability of the children to interact positively with their parents, enhancing those nurturing relationships.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

- The first group at an ELC site began in January with ten parents.
- Staff have received additional training in ICPS and Nurturing Parenting/Nurturing Fathers.
- Operation PAR secured state Prevention Partnership Grant funding to implement NPSG at ELC sites.

B. Challenges/Barriers

- Parents have difficulty committing to the NPSG due to limited time and other life challenges. Effective means for mitigating barriers are discussed below.
- Lack of designated locations and designated staff for recruitment also present a barrier to services.
- Operation PAR has had difficulty recruiting sufficient families at CHCP following changes in Suncoast services.

C. Lessons Learned

- Parents are most likely to attend NPSG when:
 - Parents are required to attend;
 - Parents have a friend who already attended and found it beneficial; and/or
 - When another provider with whom the parent has bonded recommends it.

- Prioritizing referrals from providers; changing the time of training to match group needs; shortening the number of sessions (and increasing each session’s length) have increased parent attendance. Parents also respond to incentives, when funding permits.
- Parent representatives on the local council have suggested developing a community-wide survey that could be distributed at each provider, community events, etc. to gather more reflections from parents on services and gaps.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- Operation PAR will continue working with ELC sites for implementation of ICPS and NPSG.
- Operation PAR will address potential changes in the Prevention Partnership Grant contract adding ICPS.
- Operation PAR will work with CHCP to reestablish group hosted at CHCP.
- The local coordinator will continue supporting parent-led efforts to form parent support and advocacy groups. The goal is to develop an independent parent council.

Table 6. Teaching Pyramid with Positive Behavior Supports

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

The change to a year-long model of coaching, additional curricula, and inclusion of trauma-informed care strategies reported at the end of Year 3 have been fully implemented.

A. Major Activities and Accomplishments

- ELC is providing the Looking Beyond Behavior (LBB) program to their fourth cohort.
- ELC has increased their retention rate of centers, allowing for long-term improvement in center adoption of the strategies.
- In March 2016, two LBB/ LAUNCH participants completed training for the 2016 Annual Conference for Child Development Education Alliance (CDEA). Two instructors at one of the ELC child care facilities held two break-out training sessions at the conference held in Jacksonville, Florida. The sessions were based on topics they learned while participating in the LBB training program including trauma-informed care, Conscious Discipline, and Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). The instructors reported participants’ feedback was positive, stating many of the participants had no previous knowledge of the curricula or topics covered. This training is supporting expansion by reaching child care professionals throughout Florida.

B. Challenges/Barriers

- Due to the uncertainty of staffing and ability to fulfill the program requirements, two of the sites were unable to continue. The two Provider Support Specialists are assisting these centers in increasing quality for improved child outcomes. Therefore, we will continue to provide technical assistance on an “as needed” basis.
- Child care directors have difficulty maintaining consistency in staffing amongst all levels of child care workers across the county. LAUNCH provider support specialists work closely with other professional development staff within the agency to provide technical support to centers that face such challenges.

C. Lessons Learned

- The two Provider Support Specialists, along with feedback from the current participants report the new year-long model allows for more intensive coaching, increased implementation of the PBS

and Conscious Discipline curricula, and enhanced intentional use of trauma-informed care strategies.

- The ability to offer incentives for participation, family engagement activities, and materials has supported program retention. As of February 2016, ELC has retained seven sites and twenty-one participants.
- The quarterly family engagement incentive has enabled child care center directors to bring in speakers on relevant topics such as responding to trauma and the importance of social/emotional well-being.
- The LBB coaches have created a closed Facebook page for current LBB participants. On this page participants and coaches can share articles, classroom pictures, accomplishments and receive advice from coaches and peers on common challenge they are facing.
- Many centers involved in the project report that the family engagement incentive has assisted in building relationships amongst the parents and staff. The camaraderie that occurs when the parents gather to socialize has resulted in more positive interactions in drop off and pick up.

D. Activities Planned for the Next 6 Months

- ELC is planning for a new cohort, which is scheduled to begin in July 2016. Participants reported that the incentives provided were beneficial in building a more positive environment for the children overall. ELC is currently seeking alternative opportunities within the community to move towards more sustainable programming once LAUNCH has ended.

Section 2, PART II: INFRASTRUCTURE & SYSTEMS CHANGE ACTIVITIES

1. Briefly describe (bullets are fine) highlights of your workforce development activities during the past six months:

- LAUNCH-funded trainings:
 - Parents on a Mission, training parents in mentoring and advocacy, 13 parent participants;
 - Trauma Informed Care for Parents, 11 parent participants;
 - Motivational Interviewing-Basic Training, 36 participants; and
 - Motivational Interviewing-Advanced Training, 22 participants.
- Grantees attended a Grand Rounds training at All Children's Hospital on October 9, 2015, that focused on trauma-informed care and children's behavioral health.
- LAUNCH sponsored, and several providers and the LAUNCH staff attended, the National Faith Symposium in Orlando on October 12-14, 2015, where they joined with faith and community leaders to learn strategies for community-based programs and solutions.
- LAUNCH sponsored, and providers and LAUNCH staff attended, the First 1,000 Days Summit in West Palm Beach on October 21-23, 2015, which provided intensive training on early child development and established a platform for advocacy at the local and state level. LAUNCH sponsored the following three workshops:
 - Relationship-Based Care: Trauma-Informed Care in Early Care, presented by Lisa Negrini, MSW, Assistant Director of The Family Study Center, University of South Florida St. Petersburg;
 - Substance Abuse During Pregnancy, presented by Dixie Morgese, Executive Director Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties; and
 - Social Determinants of Health, presented by Jeffrey P. Brosco, MD, PhD, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Mailman Center for Child Development University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

- Numerous local community providers participated in a Behavioral Health Forum on October 27, 2015.
- Local coordinator attended SOC Wraparound training 101 on October 18-20, 2015.
- Local coordinator attended the 29th Annual Behavioral Health Conference held in Tampa, FL on March 13-16, 2016, and focused on attending the sessions on health disparities and cultural competency.
- Operation PAR provided additional training in ICPS, Nurturing Parenting/Nurturing Fathers, and Motivational Interviewing to staff and local partners.

2. Briefly describe (bullets are fine) highlights of your public education/social marketing activities over the last six months:

- The local council developed a Protective Factors poster which will be distributed to parents through providers, partners, and the Adopt-a-Block program.
- Healthy Start Community Baby Shower was held at All Children's Hospital promoting safe sleep, portable crib set up training, baby supplies and a presentation by Dr. Jamie McHale on how reading and talking to your newborn promotes brain development. Eighty-eight new or pregnant moms, 36 fathers, 33 other adults and 62 infants and children attended this community event.
- PAT+ attended Angels Against Abuse meetings to inform the group about PAT+ and request donations for the Holiday Developmental Toy and Board Book Drive.
- The Suncoast case manager has visited area elementary schools and child care centers to promote LAUNCH services.
- Operation PAR has provided 14 presentations at ELC sites, reaching 165 individuals with information about NPSG and ICPS.
- LAUNCH is collaborating with the Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET); Department of Education (DOE), Office of Healthy Schools; Department of Health, School Health Office; and Coordinated School Health to provide regional social and emotional health workshops on trauma-informed care with ongoing technical assistance.
- LAUNCH will provide a workshop at the DOE Summer Academy for school personnel and education administrators as well as a statewide webinar on Youth Mental Health First Aid to school health personnel and teachers in the summer of 2016.
- LAUNCH is part of a statewide email list for school health personnel. This allows LAUNCH to provide technical assistance to workers in search of resources supporting social and emotional development, including dealing with challenging behavior in the school setting.
- LAUNCH has continued to provide email updates to our local and state stakeholders. Highlights have included annual report information and Zika Fever prevention material for pregnant women and providers. Each of the updates also include a resources document with news and journal articles of interest along with workshops and trainings available.

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:

- The local council continues to have participation from stakeholders in the local community who provide services to families with young children who are exposed to substance abuse. Three partners provide substance abuse services directly.
- LAUNCH staff at the state level have collaborated with other Department staff to identify gaps and strategies to respond to a new funding opportunity to address opiate abuse and overdose. Opiate abuse is prevalent in the LAUNCH target area, and expanded services will benefit the community.

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

- The local coordinator has been able to facilitate more effective relationships between service providers as the result of participation in the local council. There is an atmosphere of support and information sharing that was not evident one year ago.
- The significant efforts of Suncoast Center staff have provided fairly consistent parent involvement on the local council. Local parent engagement has improved substantially, as evidenced by increased attendance at local council meetings and the formation of a parent-led support group.
- LAUNCH facilitated provision of Youth Mental Health First Aid training to school health staff statewide. The training was met with a positive response, and will be included in the Department of Education Summer Academy, expanding the audience to teachers, administrators, and other school stakeholders from across Florida.

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

- The local council is continually working to increase parent representation. Parent attendance has improved, but greater representation is always beneficial.
- Two chairs of state workgroups have stepped down due to employment changes. Staff have identified possible replacements and are working with them to continue workgroup activities.

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:

- The Kearney Center, the comprehensive emergency services center and homeless shelter in Leon County is implementing a parent skills training and engagement program as a first step to increasing programmatic support for families experiencing homelessness. Kearney Center staff have been developing a long-term strategy, aided by LAUNCH staff, to build services including child care, parent skills training, and further supports that specifically address the needs of families to increase stability for young children experiencing homelessness and reduce the time needed to transition families into permanent housing.

Section 3: EVALUATION UPDATE

If your evaluation plan has changed in any significant ways in the last six months, please describe in the relevant portion(s) of the table below:

No significant changes.