Decat/Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Coalitions &

Sac County Prevent Child Abuse Council

Date: November 13, 2017

Meeting Agenda: Understanding Your Community: Review, Analyze, Prioritize

Attendees: Annette Koster, Retta Mitchell, Jackie Duffy, Christy Jenkins, Mollie Scott

The Sac County Coalition met on November 13, 2017 to review data from the October 9, 2017 Data Analysis meeting. Consensus from the Data Analysis meeting on Oct 9th for the most pressing needs at this time, related to the data reviewed, are:

* Poverty
* Mental Health/ACEs/Trauma Informed Care;
* Employment; and
* Risk Factors for children and youth.

**Understanding Your Community:** Review, Analyze, Prioritize

**Community Plans:**

She Matters: We Listen and Iowa Wins Issue; Economic Self-Sufficiency by the Iowa Women’s foundation identified Childcare, Employment, Education/Vocational Training, Housing, Food, and Transportation in the 18 communities in Iowa participating in the study.

Sac County Health Services identified childhood obesity among school age children. Currently the Sac Fit, ISU Extension & Outreach, Loring Hospital and Sac County Health Services are collaborating to provide education and events for schools.

Sac County Health Services identified that child abuse rates are high. Funding for the Family STEPS program in provided by grant from Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac Early Childhood Iowa and Prevent Child Abuse Iowa. Family STEPS provide family support to parents of children five years and younger.

Jackie Duffy commented that the Loring Hospitals assessment identified child obesity, mental health, chronic health diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Attendees at the Understanding Your Community meeting commented that the ACE study revealed, *strongly negative experiences in childhood can derail a child’s development, and lead to a host of health and social challenges throughout a lifetime* (*Beyond ACES: Building Hope & Resiliency in Iowa*).

Child Care: Request for non-traditional care including early and late hours for working and commuting parents. Recently quality child care has been defined. Many childcare facilities do not participate in the Quality Rating System to identify themselves as a quality program. Childcare centers can be more costly for parents. High turnover in center care. Two centers in area are full, lack of staff for capacity to serve the children in their care. Many of the childcare homes in Sac County are not Registered or identified. The *Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow: published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation* identifies *“high quality” childcare provides a safe, supportive environment that promotes young children’s healthy cognitive, social-emotional, and language development, leading to positive outcomes like increased social readiness.*

Kin-ship care can be an effective option for parents. In a positive/quality Kin-ship care children can develop a strong family bond, increased vocabulary, secure and nurturing supports, and parent engagement with social interaction activities.

**Reports:**

Iowa Family Survey Program Data Summary August 2016

Love-n-Logic: The survey assesses five protective factors: nurturing and attachment; family functioning and resilience; social emotional support; concrete support; and parenting and knowledge of child development. The program served a mix of female and male, all white, 80% married or partnered and 13% single. 52% were over 23 when they had a baby. 90% were employed full or part time, and 70% owned their own home. The program showed success in all the identified protective factors.

Family STEPS: Sac County did not have enough surveys returned. A combination report for Buena Vista & Sac Counties Family STEPS program five protective factors nurturing and attachment; family functioning and resilience; social emotional support; concrete support; and parenting and knowledge of child development. Participation in the program 98% were female, 59% white, 72% married or partnered and 17% were single, 56% were between 19-23 years of age, 52% were employed, and 20% owned their home. The program showed success in all the identified protective factors.

Do not have the Sexual Abuse Prevention data from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa on hand. Annette K contact PCA Iowa for report.

**Discussion:**

Cindy Partlow, i-smile Coordinator left a message, she was unable to attend, but provided the following information. Sac County is fortunate to have a dental provider who accepts children up to 18 years of age. Adult dental wellness will take five per month. Out of the seven (7) community water systems only one if fluorinated 63% do not. This was backed up by the Fluoridation Reports All Water Systems by County. It is proven that fluoride in water helps to reduce dental decay. What is the natural fluoridation level for communities? Bottled water has trace amounts not required to report on label.

Data for mental health hard to find, what other factors or identifiers lead to mental health in children? Discussion on child behaviors. Have heard reports that schools are seeing increased and elevated behaviors. Crawford and Buena Vista Counties have School Based Mental Health services in place. In Crawford funds are provided by Decat and the school system, able to bill Medicaid for those who qualify. Success has been identified when schools share their concerns related to mental health and social emotional disturbances to mental health providers, and allow the access to services on location.

A connection between attachment within relationships to emotional and behavioral regulation is the increased use of technology. Lack of eye contact and social interaction starting with young children and continuing through adulthood apart of behaviors in children/mental health issues.

Talked about the unemployment in Sac County versus the underemployment professions. Parents having the funds to survive on income. Pay for transportation, childcare, housing etc.

Next Steps:

* Send out Focus Group Questions for Agencies (electronically).
* Parent Focus Groups (in person) possibly: Head Start, Kid’s World, Library programs, mentoring, Family Development Center, and Parent Teacher Conferences.
* Suggestion to have the BVU Social Worker program assist.

Sac County Coalition Meeting to be held on December 11, 2017