

NCTSN Mini-Grant Initiative: Brief Assessment

Title/Brief Description of Project: Early Childhood Mental Health Training

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Three priority areas: making child-serving systems more trauma-informed, enhancing cultural competence and, enhancing family/youth and consumer involvement, have been identified by the NCCTS as being underfunded. Given the importance of these areas to meeting our mission, the NCCTS allocated funds on August 15, 2007 to increase activities in these areas.

We are approaching the end of the mini-grant period. Once you have completed your project, we would like you to fill out a brief assessment of your project. Please answer the following questions to the best of your abilities:

1. Did the project change in scope over the course of the grant period?

The project was initially conceived of as an Early Childhood conference, but changed in scope to be an intensive two day training on the topic. The developers of the conference found it more feasible to focus on securing one presenter for an intensive training rather than coordinating multiple presenters and topic areas.

2. Please describe any of the positive experiences (e.g., new partnerships, additional funding) that have emerged from this project.

The project resulted in a collaboration with Dr. Julie Larrieu at Tulane University and Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc. The training also brought together various systems working with young children in Alaska: child protection, early intervention, mental health, and visitation supervision.

3. What problems or barriers have you encountered and how were they managed?

One of the problems encountered when developing the training was higher than expected cost of training space and refreshments. The group located a free training space and obtained a discount by Dr. Larrieu due to NCTSN partnership. Another challenge was lack of personnel (training department) to work on coordinating logistics of the training, This challenge was solved by identifying a central person to coordinate the training and to delegate specific tasks to the remainder of the workgroup.

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4. If you had more funds and/or time what would you like to see done next to build upon your project?

Ideally, this training would be the beginning of ongoing collaboration and partnership between agencies that serve young children in Anchorage. It would be helpful to have ongoing consultation by Dr. Larrieu in regards to case planning, therapeutic visitation, early intervention, and parent/child assessments.

5. If you could have altered any part of this mini-grant initiative what would you have liked to see done differently?

Nothing

6. What aspect of the project are you most proud of?

The level of positive feedback regarding the content of the training and the way it appealed to a diverse audience.

7. Please describe any feedback you have received about your project.

The workgroup received informal feedback from training participants. Participants expressed feeling motivated after the training to implement the training into their work. The Alaska Child Trauma Center has requested feedback on the Trauma-Informed Services Survey which was completed at the conclusion of the training.

8. If there was a product or resource developed as part of your mini-grant what are your plans for dissemination?

A bibliography was developed as part of the training including relevant reading on early childhood mental health, social emotional development, and child protection issues. The bibliography was disseminated to the NCTSN 0-6 workgroup.

9. Briefly describe your experience collaborating with the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress on this mini-grant project.

Collaboration with the NCTSN was an overall a positive experience.

10. Did you find the budget and the time allotted your project sufficient for achieving your goals?

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There was a sufficient budget and length of time to implement this project. Having the training sponsored and delivered by a collaborative group of agencies helped diminish the cost.

11. If given the opportunity would you apply for another mini-grant or recommend a mini-grant initiative to a colleague or organization?

Our center would apply for another mini-grant because it is an opportunity to implement a project outside of the normal scope of our program.

12. Overall, how would you describe your satisfaction with the mini-grant initiative process?

Very satisfied

13. Any additional comments?