

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of Adolescent Health Working Group
April 16, 2015

Goals of the Effort

The mission of the AHWG is that all people have access to high quality care. In the beginning, the AHWG was just focused on organizing people and cross-collaboration, but now it has blossomed more into filling the gaps in advocacy. Direct service providers are not always able to be a part of advocacy and such, so AHWG identifies the gaps and problem solves to find the solutions.

The goals of the Adolescent Health Working Group (AHWG) are threefold:

- 1) Coordinate and Convene Providers
- 2) Advocate for Policy Change
- 3) Train providers and provide resources they can use in practice.

Focal Population of the Effort

The target population for the AHWG is all adolescents in San Francisco.

Impact

The AHWG's impact is focused on providers. They have created many resources for providers to use. AHWG created a trauma and resilience tool kit about the effects of trauma and community violence and what interventions look like in a medical and community based environment. They created a mental health resource regarding minor consent and what rights minors have to health services.

The AHWG also hosts an annual conference for providers that has grown to about 250 providers, including many providers from outside the Bay Area. Annual conference topics have included women's health and mental health.

The AHWG recognized a big need for a transitional-age youth housing unit with residential care, intensive mental health and drug treatment. They recognized the unit needed to be separate from the adult system. The group was very successful in collaborating with the Community Behavioral Health Center to create 20 beds as a result.

The group has been very active in advocating in the area of minor consent and confidentiality. They helped to bring recent change in legislation in a California provision. Since the Affordable Care Act, people can stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26. Young adults were getting nervous because parents could see the health issues their young adults were facing. AHWG saw a need to expand the confidentiality rights up to 26. Young people can, as a result, request to insurers that sensitive information not be released to parents.

The Adolescent Health Education Collaborative, a subcommittee of the AHWG, created a new progressive sexual education curriculum. They wanted to teach them and connect adolescents to health services, build health literacy and build self efficacy around taking charge of one's own health. The progressive curriculum they developed was piloted in two schools in 2013, six schools fall of 2014, and this year the curriculum will be in all of the schools.

The group's greatest strength is a highly engaged population of stakeholders and providers. Meetings are consistently well attended and attendees are highly participatory.

Challenges

The greatest challenge the group faces is getting non-health entities involved in the conversation regarding adolescent health.

Origins of the Effort

The AHWG started in 1998 because there were many adolescent primary healthcare providers throughout San Francisco, but there was no collaboration between them or means for them to communicate with each other. The AHWG was created to facilitate that collaboration and communication, and it has now progressed to a non-profit organization.

Leading the Effort

Sarah Rodriguez has been the director and coordinator of the AHWG for two years. Her position is funded by the Department of Public Health

Members of the Effort

The AHWG steering committee is made up of 27 members. Information about the following members can be found on the AHWG website:

- Erica Monasterio, Clinical Professor, Division of Adolescent Medicine at UCSF School of Medicine
- Charlene Clemens, Co-Founder and member at-large of SF Family Support Network
- Curtis Chan, Medical Director, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health for DPH
- Christopher Pepper, Teacher SFUSD
- Judy Young, Assistant Director of UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health
- Tonya Chaffee, Director of Teen and Young Adult Health Center at SF General
- Quarry Pak, Mentor Wellness Coordinator for SFUSD
- Erin Hule, Special Projects Manager at the Mental Health Association of San Francisco
- Nicole Plata, Youth Initiative Coordinator
- Krista Giry, Director of Health Services
- Daisy Ozim, Creator, Resilient Wellness & O
- Prasanthi Patel, Program Supervisor, Family Service Agency SF
- Elizabeth Samayoa, Executive Director of HIFY
- Ashley Rojas, Health Educator
- Alexa Colgrove Curtis, practicing family nurse practitioner
- Glenn Eagleson, Senior Youth Services Analyst for DCYF
- Monique Hosein, Youth Services Supervisor at Mission Neighborhood Health Center
- Shivaun Nestor, Interim Director of Youth Programs, SFDPH
- Anna Lemon, Project Manager of Health Education and Cultural Linguistic Services, San Francisco Health Plan
- Irene Casanova, Director of Engagement
- Stacey Blankenbaker, Manager, Wellness Initiative Director at San Francisco Wellness Initiative
- Amy Peterson
- Owen Morse
- Lisa Reyes, Program Manager, SFDPH Community Behavioral Health Services
- Gloria Thornton, Senior Health Promotion Consultant, Anthem Blue Cross State Sponsored Business
- Eb Troast, Education Manager at Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific

Structure of the Effort

The AHWG Steering Committee meets every month and consists of 19-25 members at a time. Membership is made up of both public and private sector participants. Two active subcommittees meet, one focused on access and utilization of services and a second focused on youth and young adult behavioral health.

The Role of Data

The AHWG collects feedback on its trainings and conference and uses that data to drive its future planning. The group also accesses data from the San Francisco Health Plan to get data on what issues are arising in terms of access and utilization.

Related Documents

More information is available at www.ahwg.net