

Resilience
Coalition



MH Commission Briefing

DMH-DESE-DSS

North St Louis City and County Resilience Coalition

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Coordinated Response to Events in Ferguson

Sanctioned August 26, 2014 to:

- Assist families and school personnel in teaching resilience and promoting hope for a better life for all children who live in North St Louis area.
- Work cooperatively with broader coalition of individuals, organizations and agencies to tangibly support emotional health and stability of children and families.

Immediate responses:

- Community providers responded from day one
- Provided 5 hours of training for more than 200 educators and other professionals-Aug 21, 2014
- “Supporting our Children: Resilience in a Time of Crisis”

Leveraging Resources Across Sectors

Ongoing Interest and Visibility with the Governor's Office and SAMHSA

Training and Service Delivery

- DMH, DESE, DSS
- Eastern Regional CMHCs and other behavioral health providers
- University of Missouri St. Louis Academy for Child Trauma Studies
- Harris Stowe State University
- Brown School of Social Work, Washington University
- Saint Louis University College of Public Health and Social Justice

Potential Funders at the Table

- St Louis County Children's Service Fund
- St Louis Mental Health Board
- Missouri Foundation for Health
- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- Deaconess Foundation

Forming New Strategic Alignments and Stronger Partnerships

Business Community

- Economic Development: North County Inc.
- Regional Chamber: Recovery STL

Law Enforcement & Their Families

- Upcoming interventions scheduled on December 11 and 15
- Collaboration with CIT Officers STL City and County

Urban League

- September 13 Ferguson Job Fair

Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU)

Office of Community Engagement

- Increase awareness and reducing duplication through attending coalition listening sessions

Department of Public Safety

- We expect this office to facilitate engagement with law enforcement

Fostering Resilience: Impact to Date

Training, Services and Support

- Staffed safe spaces in partnership with Metropolitan Congregations United
- Facilitated listening sessions at four major churches

Business Community

- Addressing trauma through debriefing and crisis services for affected business owners and their employees

Families of Law Enforcement Officers

- Working with CIT to schedule four Resiliency and Coping Intervention (RCI) sessions
 - Small group intervention to promote individual and community resiliency
 - Helps children and youth identify thoughts, feelings and coping strategies following distressing events
 - Brief, solution focused, can be tailored to community settings

Urban League

- DMH welcomed seven (7) new employees who applied at Ferguson Job Fair. Ten (10) hires are anticipated in January 2015

African-American Professional Associations

- Coordinating service delivery to maximize coverage; avoid duplication of efforts; explore opportunities for collaboration

Efforts Underway and on the Horizon

Types of Intervention

- Listening forums– Churches, Ferguson Businesses, Protesters, Law Enforcement
- Small group interventions
 - On-site access for parents at schools
 - Separate but simultaneous sessions for children/spouses of Law Enforcement
- Referral for individual or group counseling as needed

Training

- *Race: The Power of an Illusion*
 - Resilience Coalition, DMH Executive Team,
- *Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR)*
 - Train-the-Trainer Course to deliver ongoing crisis intervention efforts following traumatic events. DMH and other agencies provided funds to offer the evidence-based intervention
 - This is the first time the course has been delivered to a statewide system in the US. The new trainers in St. Louis will offer SPR to area schools in the North St. Louis area.
- Developing Cadre of Facilitators for Community Sessions

Considerations for 2015 and Beyond

- Fluid movement between response and recovery
- Media coverage impacts community unrest
- People need to be heard, we can provide a safe environment
- Race must be discussed in a healthy, safe manner
- Foresee an increase in requests from schools
- Potential impact of civil lawsuit
- National protests will continue—MLK Day, Black History Month
- Ferguson Commission recommendations
- President Obama's Taskforce on 20th Century Policing
- Sustainability of efforts

Summary

- Resilience Coalition is aligning existing providers & programs to better serve the community utilizing a public mental health outreach model.
- This is not business as usual but a public/private partnership that enhances traditional services to our clients & communities.
- Race must be discussed in a safe, healthy and productive manner.
- We can be a model for Missouri & the nation if...
 - we respect everyone's voice & facilitate constructive conversations
 - strengthen and enhance existing community supports
 - pursue and sustain good outcomes



Questions?