

Adams County Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ACCMHP)

COMMUNITY SERVED¹

Adams County is a rural county in West Central Illinois, with a population of approximately 66,988 and a geographic area of 855.2 square miles.

- 22.6% (15,139) under age 18
- 92.6% White, 3.7% Black, 1.4% Latino, 0.7% Asian
- 14.4% persons below FPL
- 78.5 persons/square mile

PROJECT OVERVIEW

ACCMHP consists of various members and providers from health care, social services, education, mental health, and the general community who have collectively created a county-wide children’s mental health system of care. Its vision is that all Adams County children will possess the social and emotional health to lead productive, meaningful lives.

Goals include:

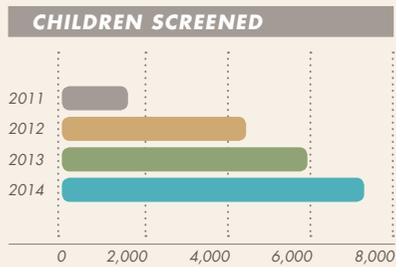
- Build a qualified workforce
- Develop a universal screening, triage, and referral process
- Integrate behavioral health services into primary care
- Improve cross-systems processes for high-need children
- Maximize access to natural supports by decreasing stigma and increasing understanding

CHILDREN SERVED

Approximately 48% of the children in Adams County were screened by the end of 2014. Screening occurs in Quincy Public Schools and all three primary care sites.

Schools. Four of the five county public schools engage in screening at one or more grade levels through registration, health classes, and/or back-to-school fairs. All schools benefit from additional services, such as on-site community-based therapists, and improved skills among teaching staff.

Primary care. All three primary care clinics adopted screening practices using the ASQ 3 and ASQ SE.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

School-based services. Mental health screening is fully integrated in Quincy Public Schools’ multi-tiered system of support. Following screening, school Mental Health Professionals review student needs and present their recommendations to the school’s Tier II intervention team. Together, they determine next steps to match a student’s identified level of need with the appropriate level of intervention.

Service co-location. Behavioral health therapists are co-located at each primary care site and in the schools. Each clinic has a unique screening and care coordination model.

Comprehensive assessments. A Child Assessment Center at Quincy Medical Group provides comprehensive, team-based assessments.

Workforce development. Targeted trainings have better prepared professionals and community members to meet children’s needs.

LESSONS LEARNED

Community awareness. To reduce stigma—a barrier to early intervention—ACCMHP provided Mental Health First Aid training to more than 86 faith providers, school staff, nurses, and community members. ACCMHP also leverages local media to increase community understanding and acceptance.

Parent engagement. Although providers are improving how they partner with parents by increasingly viewing them as an essential part of their child’s treatment, improved parent engagement remains a need in the county. ACCMHP identified best practices and strategies for parent engagement, and identified parents to serve on community groups benefitting children.

Services for highest-need children. ACCMHP offers wraparound training for schools and community-based organizations to help them develop a child-centered, family-focused plan of support for youth and families with the most complex and/or severe needs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Adams County Court Services
- Adams County Special Education Association
- Advocacy Network for Children
- All Our Kids Network
- Blessing Behavioral Healthcare
- Blessing Physician Services
- Chaddock Child & Family Connections
- Cornerstone Mental Health Authority–Education Committee
- Quincy Medical Group
- Quincy Public Schools
- SIU Family Medicine
- Transitions of Western Illinois
- United Way of Adams County

¹ United States Census, *State & County Quickfacts*, “Adams County, Illinois.” Accessed August 5, 2015. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17001.html>