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Summary of PHO Grand Round
Early Childhood Series

June 2014
• Environment matters
• There are sensitive periods
• Child development impacts life long health
• Brian development is adversely effected by toxic stress
• ECD programs and approaches (e.g. 18 month well baby visit, NDDS, proportionate universality, focus on attachment/serve & return) can make a difference
The Science of ECD: Challenge in Translating Research to Inform Public Policy and Service Delivery

Dr. Frank Oberklaid
November 27, 2013

• Investment in early childhood improves outcomes in adult life and make economic sense
• Brain architecture = get it right the first time
• A shift in public policy to prevention & early intervention, diminishing/removing risk, and strengthening protective factors is required
• Translating science/research to policy and program calls for:
  – Proportionate universalism
  – Integration of services
  – Multidimensional service models
  – Sustainable solutions
Child Well-being in Rich Countries: How Does Canada Measure Up?
Lisa Wolff
January 21, 2014

- Unicef Report Card 11 – (Stuck in the Middle)
- Canada ranked 17th of 29 industrialized nations
- Lagging behind in:
  - Overweight and Obesity
  - Children’s self-reported life satisfaction
  - Children not in education, employment or training (NEET)
  - Relative child poverty
  - Immunization
- Policy implications = put children first:
  - Children’s charters
  - Child friendly cities
  - Children’s budget
Leveraging the Science of Healthy Development:
Designing Systems that Help Children Thrive
Dr. Neal Halfon
February 7, 2014

• Disturbing trends in child health = disparities, co-morbidities, exposure & risks, mental health
• When young children fall behind – everyone pays
• There are time sensitive pathways of influence
• Current child health system is fragmented, difficult to access, of low-uneven quality, out-moded, has enormous constraints
• Lessons learned to optimize early childhood outcomes:
  – Not about services but systems
  – Embrace complexity
  – Scale the change
  – Complex systems learn
Dr. Halfon (continued)

• What is needed:
  – Vision/framework
  – Leadership
  – Cross sector pathways
  – Innovation
  – Evidence
  – Integrated finances
  – Data
  – Collaboration

• Transforming early childhood community systems = 4 stages:
  1. Community engagement
  2. Measurement and mapping
  3. Targeted system improvement
  4. Shared learning with a collaborative innovation network
The 18 Month Enhanced Well-Baby Visit Assessment: Partnerships with Public Health
Dr. Kieran Moore
April 17, 2014

• Built on values ("Make No Little Plans")
  – Collaboration
  – Equity
  – Quality
  – Partnership
  – Row less and steer more
• Public health – primary care partnership that includes assessment, promotion, and monitoring
• Identified need to target priority populations
• CQI framework
EDI and the Heart-Mind Index
Joanne Schroder
May 27, 2013

• No data = no problem = no action
• EDI demonstrates:
  – the growing proportion of vulnerable children across Canada = the need for investment in the early years
  – the inequitable distribution of vulnerability amongst children
  – that the majority of vulnerable children are in the middle class = the need for proportionate universality
• Heart Mind Index – strengths based
From Evidence to Practice: Different Speakers/Different Countries All Saying the Same Thing

• Overwhelming evidence that
  – early childhood matters = now and for life long health
  – There are sensitive periods in brain development that are amenable to change/intervention
  – Investing in early childhood makes sense
• The current system (in Canada and around the world) is failing young children
• We know what needs to be done:
  – shift from treatment to policy, prevention and early intervention
  – Proportionate universalism
  – system integration – collaboration, partnership
“Knowing is not enough; we must apply,
Willing is not enough; we must do”  Goethe
“By seeking and blundering we learn”

“Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men”

“Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward, they may be beaten but may start a winning game”

Goethe
“The future ain’t what it used to be”