B. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Name:
School Community Partnership for Mental Health
HWPP Project Number:
2011D-42

Without exceeding this one (1) page, briefly describe your project and partnership.
Milwaukee’s School Community Partnership for Mental Health (SCPMH) is a collaborative, multi-system, interdisciplinary approach to improve access and strengthen the capacity of schools, families and providers to improve youth mental health, school success and well-being. The three-tiered approach includes trust building/stigma reducing activities; early identification and consultation with families and school staff; and delivery of evidence based mental health services to youth and families. Based on population prevalence, it is estimated that there are 16,000 students in need of some level of mental health intervention in Milwaukee Public Schools. However, only a small fraction of children in need generally receive services. The project will:

1. Implement a three-tiered system of mental health promotion and service delivery in four MPS schools in partnership with parents, community providers and school staff;
2. Utilize Community Health Workers (CHW) to increase parent engagement in school based mental health promotion and awareness activities; and in the identification and treatment of their children's mental health concerns;
3. Train school staff and parents about conditions that support mental health and school success and processes for referral to services and other resources;
4. Provide case-specific, family-centered collaborative consultation services to school staff and parents;
5. Deliver evidence based therapeutic services to students in schools (agencies and homes) as directed by the school's Collaborative Support Team (CST) process;
6. Develop policy solutions that will support and increase mental health services for urban children.

The pilot outcomes will inform broader school district, provider agency, and funding sources policies and catalyze expansion of the model.

Much work has been done to date to develop both the pilot and the partnership. From 2008-2010, the Planning Council for Health and Human Services led an outcome-focused planning process to develop the pilot. The Leadership Team, which consists of community mental health providers; school staff; university and community-based researchers; city, county and state representatives; and the four Medicaid HMOs, oversees the pilot. The Leadership Team also connects with other efforts working to improve youth mental health, as to not duplicate services. During the 2009-2010 school year, the pilot providers developed relationships with the schools and parents by attending various school events attended by staff and parents. Providers began partial delivery of services in schools during the 2010-2011 school year. In January, 2011, the Leadership Team began to discuss and review evidence-based therapeutic interventions for urban children to clarify aspects of the model to be piloted and developed an evaluation model that will partner academic researchers with community providers, school staff, community health workers and parents in collecting data to demonstrate effectiveness in the four pilot schools.

Though local foundations have generously supported the formation of the pilot, support from HWPP will allow SCPMH to be fully implemented and evaluated. HWPP funds will be used to 1) hire a school-based coordinator to guide providers and school staff in following pilot protocols and writing/revising the project manual, 2) engage partners in continuous quality improvement (Evidence Based Practices Workgroup), 3) hire CHWs to facilitate full engagement of parents in the pilot planning and implementation, and 4) conduct the two year comprehensive evaluation. The systems that need to make and sustain changes to increase access and quality of service for children are partners in the pilot. They have assisted in developing the evaluation plan to target data collection to what will be needed to sustain the model and expand to other schools in the district and statewide.