The Impact of the Opioid Crisis on Young Children: A Collaborative Process of Developing a State-wide Web-based Training

Authors: Michelle E. Roley-Roberts, Ph.D.1, Felicia Foci, MSOT2, Michael Storts, BS, R.N.1, Brooke Nightingale, B.S.1, Hanein Edrees, M.D.2, Jennifer Walton, M.D., MPH1, Andrea Witwer, Ph.D.1, Stephanie Weber, PsyD2
Institutions: The Ohio State University Nisonger Center LEND1 & Cincinnati LEND at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and University of Cincinnati2

Introduction

- The United States is in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Ohio has one of the highest rates of opioid-related deaths in the country.
- The majority of public health work has focused on addiction treatment and prevention. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable.
- Children are affected by the epidemic via both prenatal opioid exposure and exposure to traumatic events.
- Children with prenatal exposure and opioid-related traumatic stress are being referred to Early Intervention (EI) programs due to behaviors and delays that are developmental in nature.
- The Early Intervention and early childhood care systems are in need of professional development and technical assistance specific to this population of affected children.
- Ohio’s LENDs are well-positioned to address this critical need given the interdisciplinary nature of our work and our focus on maternal child health.

Goals/Aims

1. To create an interactive, engaging online learning module for Ohio’s early childhood educators/care providers to learn:
   a) Information on addiction, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and childhood traumatic stress
   b) How to provide trauma-informed care in the context of early intervention services and childcare in the classroom
   c) Developmental monitoring with young children affected by the opioid epidemic
2. To strengthen collaboration between Ohio’s Maternal and Child Health (MCH) training programs
3. To build trainees’ leadership skills, especially in the following MCH Leadership Competency areas:
   a) Interdisciplinary Team Building
   b) Working with Communities & Systems

Methods & Progress to Date

We have taken steps toward our goals in the following areas:

Team Coordination
- Completion of trainee self-assessment through MCH Navigator for Leadership Competencies #10 and #11
- Met weekly via conference calls to collaborate on training content, project needs, and next steps
- Disseminated weekly e-mails with meeting minutes and project updates
- Collaborated on content and resources via BuckeyeBox

Literature Review
- Completed reviews and summaries on opioid epidemic, addiction, substance use disorders, neonatal abstinence syndrome, traumatic stress, trauma-informed care, and child development

Key Informant Interviews
- Interviewed subject matter experts in various healthcare disciplines including neonatology, psychology, pediatrics, and occupational therapy
- Interviewed community members/partners including Early Intervention providers/supervisors, childcare center providers/supervisors, and foster parents
- Solicited feedback from a variety of professionals including childcare professionals, psychologists, occupational therapists, and neonatologists on module content

Conference Attendance
- Attended Children of Addicted Parents Conference in November 2017
- Presented workshop to professionals on childhood traumatic stress and the opioid epidemic in Appalachia, March 2018

Methods & Progress to Date

Pilot Presentation/Feedback
- Presented content in a trial run to trainees within the LEND program and The Nisonger Center
- Incorporated feedback from trial run, key informants and experts into current content
- Wrote questions for pre and post quizzes to align with content

Credentialing and Marketing
- Explored necessary information for Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA) accreditation
- Developed flyer to advertise our online training at conferences/workshops
  o Family-to-Family Health Information Center Conference: Jackson, OH
  o Division of Early Childhood Annual Conference: Columbus, OH

Lessons Learned

- Content: Synthesizing the high volume of information learned
- Online Methods: All e-learning programs have many pros and cons: Captivate was best choice for current project due to capabilities of program for our educational purposes.
- Interdisciplinary Teamwork: Interdisciplinary team building and eliciting expertise and skills of team members; learning strengths and weaknesses in expertise
- Research: Early planning on the process for how to get webinar participants to complete the research project
- Video Methods: Capturing high quality videos without expertise in videography and on a very limited budget
- Exploration of Online Platforms: Investigated multiple platforms to disseminate a web-based training module including Adobe Captivate (selected), Articulate 360, Lectora, Camtasia and Learning Management System Platforms

Exploration of Online Platforms
- Incorporating the research content with project aims to generate the module topics: The Opioid Crisis, Addiction, Trauma-Informed Care, Impact on Conception to Age 2, Impact on Ages 3 to 5, Developmental Milestones, Glossary, Resources and References

Next Steps

- Complete module development in Adobe Captivate
- Obtain Ohio Step Up to Quality approval
- Obtain IRB approval for research study
- Launch training module into OCCRRA system
- Analyze data obtained from participants
- Prepare manuscript and present outcomes

Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau Grants T73MC24481 & T73MC00032 and AUCD Focused Assistance to Support Training (FAST) projects