



Pernet
Family Health Service

Population Health Clerkship : Pernet Family Health Service

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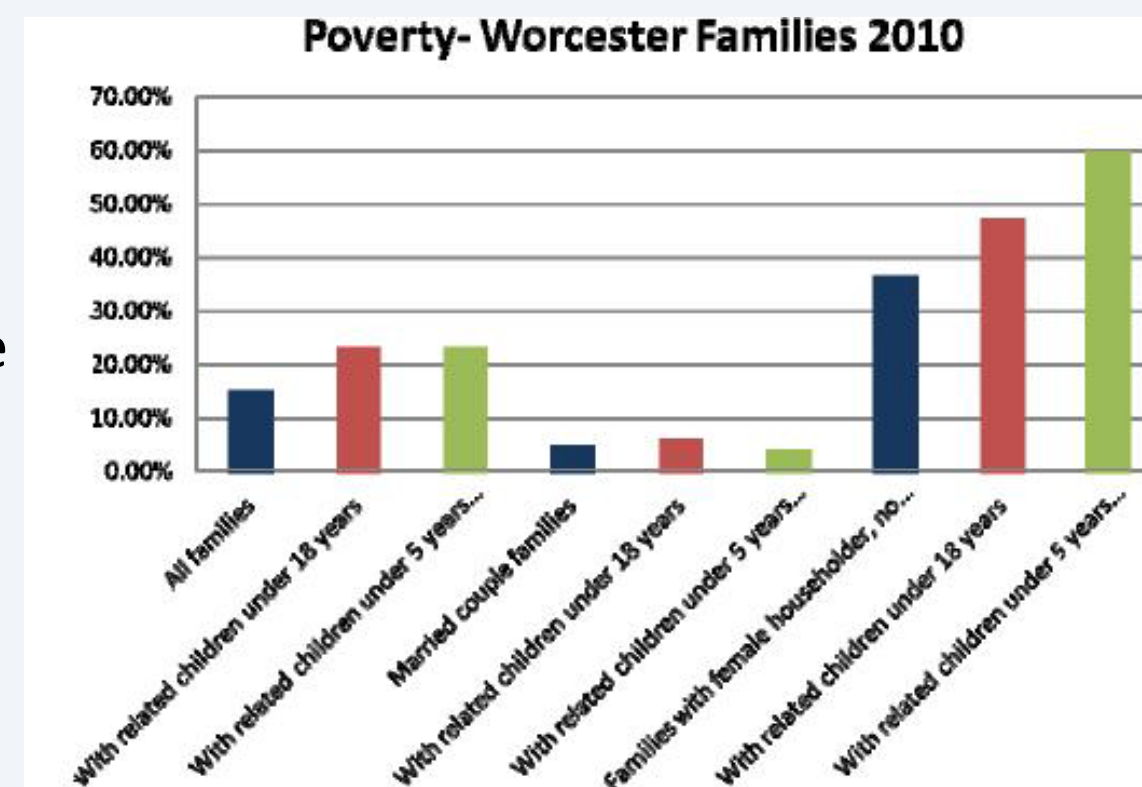
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Introduction to the Population

Low income inner-city families with risk factors for abuse and neglect.

- 1 in 7 families live in poverty in Worcester. (2010)
- 50% of single mothers live in poverty in Worcester (2010)
- 60% of families living in poverty have related children < 5 years old (2010)



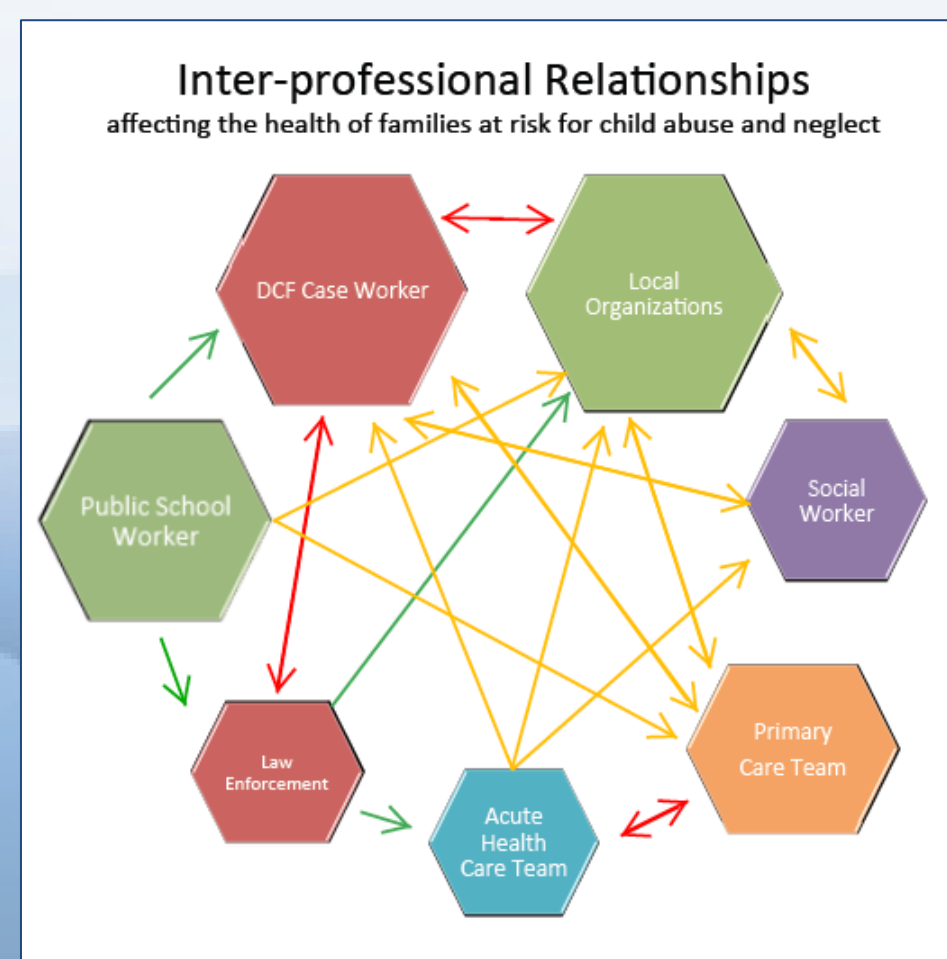
Magee, B.D., Brindisi, D. (2012)

Pernet Family Health Service

Pernet Family Health Service supports the physical, social, psychological, and spiritual development of individuals and families, promoting long-term strengthening and enhancement of family and community life. Services include:

- Family & Community Development
 - Emergency Assistance
 - Information and Referrals
 - Holiday Program
 - Community Organizing
 - Neighborhood Leadership Development
 - Youth Activities
 - Homework Club
 - Spiritual Life Program
 - Green Island Gardens
- Early Intervention
- Maternal and child nursing
- Family support services
 - Young Parent Support
 - Parent-Aides
 - Fathers and Family Program
 - Homemakers Program
 - Parenting Classes
 - Worcester Healthy Start Initiative

Interprofessional Network Relationships



Key:

Size of hexagon corresponds to relative role of the individual/agency in the health of the population

- Weak relationship
- Intermediate relationship
- Strong relationship

Project Summary

Goals

To create a comprehensive family assessment tool for parent aides to assist in developing rapport with clientele and determining areas of need.

Progress

What dreams or hopes do you have for your family?

Part D: Social Support
Who can you count on in times of need?

Who would be able to take care of your children for several hours if needed?

Describe the kinds of support you receive from your family/friends/community:

Part E: Transportation (check all that apply)
☐ Has driver's license ☐ Works ☐ Has own car ☐ Blue
☐ Family Transportation ☐ No Reliable Transportation ☐ Friend Transports you ☐ Other
☐ Plan:

Part F: Education (check all that apply) Years of school completed:
☐ Grad before having children ☐ Grad since having children
☐ Plans to complete high school, when:
☐ Has completed GED (General Education Development)
☐ Plans to complete GED, when:
Education/Employment Plans:

Part G: Nutrition
Do you receive WIC for yourself or your children? Yes / No. If not, are you interested in applying? Yes / No
Do you use food stamps? Yes / No. If not, are you interested in applying? Yes / No
Do you have enough food to feed everyone in your family? Yes / No
Do you run out of food at certain times of the month? Yes / No
Which of the following apply to the way you and your family usually eat?
Check all that apply. List family members it applies to
☐ Eat three meals a day at home/school/job
☐ Skip breakfast, but eat lunch and dinner
☐ Eat one meal a day

- Combined 2 previous screening tools
- Worked with Parent Aides to fit tool to practice
- Reduced redundancies in paperwork
- Defined organizational purpose of the tool
- Established need to identify indices of program outcomes



Projected Outcomes

The tool will:

- Give Parent Aides a snapshot about family needs at a particular time
- Provide good information for writing grants
- Be used to break the ice for reluctant clients
- Fill in the gaps when initially meeting the client
- Provide ready to use information if new employees, DCF, or other agencies need to know more about the client

Lessons Learned

- More support needed for men for food security, parenting, and job opportunities
- Better communication needed between DCF and families
- Transportation problem in Worcester
- Families have limited resources for obtaining correct information about current news
- Safety issues: unsafe environment due to crime and drugs
- Cycle of poverty and abuse continues generation to generation

Lessons Learned as Future Clinicians

- Understand the challenges that face our patients which would include:
 - Missed appointments because of lack of transportation
 - Poor nutrition because of family stressors and insufficient funds
 - Poor compliance because patients cannot afford medication or understand the consequences for themselves and their children.
 - No support network
- Learn what resources are available for at risk patients and have the information readily available.
- Develop a relationship with the local organizations to refer at risk patients

Recommendations

- Parent Aide could provide updated information (a flier with phone numbers) on resources in the community for shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens, transportation, health insurance
- Partner with neighboring colleges to start a volunteer program where students can volunteer a couple of hours a week to take clients to get groceries, go to doctor appointments, and/or pick up prescriptions.
- Provide information about Pernet and its services to area clinics and hospitals so that nurses and physicians can pass on the information to their patients.
- Advertise/Provide information to local schools for students and their parents.
- Invite DCF representatives to Pernet support groups for clients to express their frustrations directly to DCF.

References

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Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all of the staff and clientele at Pernet Family Health for so generously sharing their stories and insights with our group. Special thanks to Denise Ingram, Sandy Fleming, Chris Nelson, Michael Rezkalla, Emily Barnett, Sheilah Dooley, and all of the Early Intervention specialists.