

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSULTATION PARTNERSHIP



"Helping relationships grow one step at a time."

MISSION

The Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP) is a mental health consultation program, designed to meet the social/emotional needs of children birth to five by offering support, education, and consultation to those who care for them. The ECCP program develops positive, mutually respectful relationships between childcare providers and the families and children they work with. ECCP strives to support the enhancement or building of relationships among and between all significant adults in a child's life. In turn, this serves as prevention, intervention, and treatment, all of which promotes the most enduring and optimal outcomes for young children, their families, and the providers who care for them.

STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

The Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP) is a statewide initiative that was initially funded by the state of Connecticut's Mental Health Strategic Investment Board through the Department of Children and Families Early Intervention Unit. Currently, the Department of Children and Families primarily funds the ECCP, and additional funding is provided by the State Department of Education. Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc, a non-profit behavioral health care management company, runs the ECCP.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Build the capacity of early childcare providers and families to more effectively address the social and emotional needs of children ages' birth to five.
- *Decrease the suspension/expulsion rates of children with behavioral and social/emotional needs in early care settings, by supporting their inclusion in early childcare settings.
- Promote and facilitate the early identification of young children's mental health needs and respond with appropriate services and referrals to other service providers, before they escalate and become a mental health crisis.
- Helping community childcare providers, educators, and families understand and promote early childhood mental health, through trainings and support to address concerns raised by and between early childcare providers, educators, and families.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The Early Childhood Consultation Partnership is a strengths-based program which has been designed to offer supports based upon the unique and expressed needs of each individual center, director, teacher, and/or family. The program allows for both the structure necessary to maintain a uniformity of best practice and data collection on a statewide level, as well as allowing for the flexibility necessary to meet individual needs.

Services are available on a continuum of care that includes, brief phone consultation, Child-Specific, Core – Classroom, and Intensive-Center-Based services. The range of services include standardized pre- and post-assessments, onsite-classroom observations, in-home observations, a team approach to goal development and implementation, staff trainings, family support, referrals, center policy/director support, and the building of community collaboratives. Each of the services has a distinct beginning, middle, and end. Follow up services and satisfaction surveys accompany each service provided.

STAFF

The program has 20 Master's level consultants, who are positioned throughout the five regions of the state. The statewide program manager and assistant program manager are licensed, Masters level, clinicians, who oversee the ongoing development and day-to-day operations of the program.

Summary of Results

- First statewide data driven systems of care for early childhood mental health consultation.
- Served over 5,000 (*unduplicated*) children.
- Provides several Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation groups around the state.
- Coordinates care among various state systems.
- Involved with capacity building at a systems level. Program staff are involved in various Systems of Care collaboratives, School Readiness Councils, and Directors Forums. ECCP is also well represented at various Early Childhood Initiatives, on Advisory Boards, and Quality Care and Cultural Competence Committees.
- 98% of children who were at risk of suspension/expulsion and who had completed ECCP child-specific services remained in their classroom at the initial program follow up.
- 94% of classrooms served demonstrated improvement in the overall quality of care.
- ECCP staff are trained in various standardized assessment tools and are approved TAB Trainers for "Connecticut Charts 'A' Course."
- Over 7,000 Training Units have been provided to Early Childhood Educators and providers.
- The ECCP randomized control group study, conducted by Walter Gilliam of Yale Child Study, was completed in 2006. The preliminary results show a positive impact upon the children we serve. This is the first such study of its kind in the nation. Supported and funded by CHDI and DCF.
- DCF contracting with ABH for the expansion of ECCP, doubling the program and introducing an in home consultation component, as well as a center director Policy Component.