ENGAGING LIFESPAN RESPITE SYSTEMS TO ENHANCE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Network for Action
Grantee Meeting

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Presenter

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Presentation Overview

- Who are we talking about serving?
- How does respite enhance protective factors?
- What are barriers to respite?
- What is Lifespan Respite?
- How can you get involved?
An estimated 4 to 19% of U.S. children have a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition. (Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), 2011).
Importance of Abuse and Neglect Prevention for this Population

- In 2011, 44 states reported that 11.2% (58,548) of children who were reported as victims of child maltreatment had a disability (U.S. DHHS, 2012).

- Children with disabilities almost 4 times more likely to be victims of neglect, physical or emotional abuse, and 3 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than children without disabilities (Sullivan and Knutson, 2000).
Others At-Risk

- Children experiencing domestic violence or other family crises
- Children in kinship families
- Parents with disabilities
Respite is...

Planned or emergency care provided to a child or adult with special needs in order to provide temporary relief to family caregivers who are caring for that child or adult.

*Lifespan Respite Care Act definition*

*PL 109-442*
Benefits of Respite

- Improves family caregiver stress levels, which can affect physical and emotional health;
- Affects overall family well-being and stability by improving marriages, sibling and other family relationships; and
- Reduces hospital costs and helps avoid or delay more costly foster care or other out-of-home placements.

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Respite Enhances Protective Factors

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports in Times of Need
81% of families of children with disabilities do not receive respite. Of those who do, they receive too little, too late. Respite needs to be meaningful for the child as well as for the caregiver.
Respite Challenges

- Affordability issues
- Limited qualified providers
- Reluctance to ask for help
- Bureaucratic maze of funding streams and services

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What is Lifespan Respite?
Lifespan Respite

Definition:

Coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite services for all family caregivers regardless of age or special need.
Federal Lifespan Respite Program

- Administered by US Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging
- $2.5 million each year since FY 2009
- Competitive grants to states
State Lead Agency

- Eligible State Lead Entities
  - State Units on Aging
  - State Medicaid Agencies
  - Other State Agencies

- In concert with...
  - Aging and Disability Resource Centers
  - State Lifespan Respite Coalition
Mandatory Uses of Funds

- Development or enhancement of State and local Lifespan Respite systems
- Provision of planned or emergency respite for all ages
- Training and recruitment of providers/volunteers
- Provision of information to caregivers about available respite and support services, and assistance in gaining access to such services
Lifespan Respite Grantee Activities

- Strengthening coalitions and defining stakeholder roles
- Public awareness campaigns
- Partnerships with faith and volunteer communities
- Provider training and recruitment
- Providing planned and crisis respite

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Get Involved

- Consider funding respite and crisis nursery services as part of your continuum of prevention services
- Contact the Lifespan Respite State Lead Agency
- Become involved in the State Respite Coalition
- Offer expertise and resources
- Contact ARCH if your state does not have a Lifespan Respite Program or a State Respite Coalition
For More Information

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center

http://www.archrespite.org/

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