

TEEN PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUCCESS INITIATIVE

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INTRODUCTION

The Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Success Initiative aka “TEEN+” of Memphis and Shelby County is a place-based prevention and intervention strategy aimed at improving the outcomes of teen births and the quality of life for teen parents and their children through a comprehensive system of care approach. The project goals include:

- ❖ Improving school attendance, graduation rates and reduce the drop-out rate among pregnant and parenting teens in Memphis and Shelby County.
- ❖ Improving birth outcomes for pregnant teens participating in the program.
- ❖ Increasing knowledge of positive early childhood development outcomes for parenting teens

TEEN+ is for teen girls and boys who are:

- ❖ Younger than age 19
- ❖ Either expecting a child or the parent of a child
- ❖ Either attending Memphis City Schools, aging out of foster care or living in one of the targeted apartment complexes within 7 identified zip codes

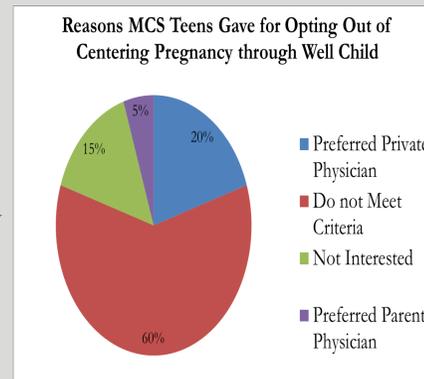
FINDINGS

Goal I: Improving school attendance, graduation rates and reduce the drop-out rate among pregnant and parenting teens.

Strategy: Recruited, enrolled, and paired over 500 teens (goal 300) with community connectors or MCS social workers to assist teens in navigating the TEEN+ system of care while utilizing principals of wraparound. As an incentive for consistent participation in TEEN+ and other positive behaviors such as school attendance, breast feeding, prenatal care appointments, etc., teens were awarded points for redemption in one of 4 community baby stores for essential baby items to encourage safety, nutrition, and positive early childhood development. Initial results show that after entering TEEN+ 6% of teens have re-enrolled in high school, completed or entered a GED program, or have enrolled in a post secondary education institution.

Goal II: Improve birth outcomes for pregnant teens participating in the program.

Strategy: Established Centering Pregnancy (CP) in 4 school based health clinics in 4 regions of the MCS district. After implementation, there was little to no utilization. A sampling of 84 pregnant teens were surveyed to determine reasons for non-use of CP. Results showed many teens did not meet CP admission criteria of enrollment within the 1st trimester of pregnancy; average gestational age of Teens identified for enrollment into TEEN+ was between the 2nd or 3rd trimester. School based CP was eliminated, and pregnant teens not under the care of a physician were referred to community based CP programs or a private physician.



Goal III: Increase knowledge of positive early childhood development outcomes for parenting teens
Strategy: Established TEEN+ Advisory Board. Members were charged with recruitment; advising development of media and educational campaign and incentive program, and provide community awareness regarding the impact of teen pregnancy.

Accomplishments include:

- * Selection of the TEEN+ logo;
- * Assisted in media campaign development that included promotional items, YouTube videos, web site, and Facebook fan page; and
- * Hosted a community awareness event, "Flippin the Script," that featured a local author and teen mom, Summer Owens. 300 teens were in attendance.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

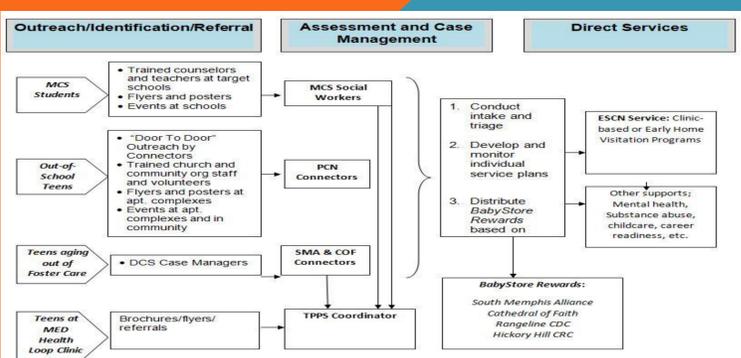
Lessons Learned. . .

- ❖ Continuity of trusted relationships between teens (families) and community connectors/service providers are required to move from transactional service delivery to holistic care to attainment of goals.
- ❖ School based prenatal care with strict admission criteria creates a barrier when teens typically do not acknowledge pregnancy until after their first trimester.
- ❖ Resolve legal barriers with large systems prior to implementation and integration of a shared client database to circumvent barriers for data collection and analysis.
- ❖ Incentive based service delivery improves outcomes when tangible needs are being met.

Sustainability/Next Steps . . .

- ❖ Established the Community Baby Store Consortium as the outreach, referral, and incentive arm of the Early Success Coalition, a collaboration of agencies providing services to parents and children from preconception to age 8 that aims to improve birth outcomes, reduce child abuse and neglect, and promote positive early childhood development.
- ❖ Wraparound Institute will be launched to provide workforce development for TEEN+ community connectors and other system of care initiatives.
- ❖ Finalize self-sustaining business plan for the shared client database system initiated through TEEN+ to coordinate services, make referrals, and measure outcomes while integrating data collection and analysis efforts with Memphis Strive.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



PARTNERS

- Agape Child and Family Services
- Cathedral of Faith Community Church*
- Hickory Hill Community Development Corporation*
- Memphis City Schools (MCS) Department of Exceptional Children & Health Services
- Rangeline Neighborhood Community Development Corporation *
- Shelby County Early Success Coalition
- South Memphis Alliance*

*Represents a Community Baby Store

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