FAAITH (Faith-leaders Allied and Aligned to Institute Trust in the Home) & HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) for Equitable Systems Alignment

Strategies to Achieve Alignment, Collaboration and Synergy across Delivery and Financing Systems

Research-in-Progress Webinar
May 3, 2023
12pm ET
Welcome: Systems for Action’s Deputy Director Carrington Lott, MPH

Presenters: Rev. Darrell Armstrong, DDiv-hc, MDiv, EdS; Allison Stephens, PhD

Commentary: Amber Robinson

Q&A: Systems for Action
Rev. Armstrong is pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Trenton, NJ, the Founder of FAAITH (Faith-leaders Allied and Aligned to Institute Trust in the Home), and leads the Shiloh Community Development Corporation. Rev. Armstrong uses his knowledge of frameworks such as Strengthening Families strategically to support children and families across cross-sector engagement. He founded the research and training agency, Institute for Clergy Training, which partners with multi-sector agencies on topics related to leadership and child & social welfare. Rev. Armstrong completed policy training at Stanford, theological training at Princeton, and therapeutic and clinical training at the College of New Jersey. His relevant areas of expertise include faith community leadership, JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion), and community development.
Dr. Stephens uses her extensive experience in family and community engagement, including family peer support and systems advocacy, to support the expansion and implementation of research-informed frameworks in child and family serving organizations. Dr. Stephens serves as the Director of Networks and Policy at the HOPE National Resource Center. She holds a PhD in Biomedical Informatics from Rutgers and an MEd in Health Promotion from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Additionally, she has a certificate in Health Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. Dr. Stephens’ relevant areas of expertise include program management, health informatics, and family and youth engagement.
Parent Leader and Advocate: Amber Robinson

Amber Robinson is a homeschooling mom that has two boys that keep her on her toes. She seeks to be a good villager wherever she goes. Looking to improve conditions and improving process to promote sustainability. Amber is a National Parent Leader Network member. A group sponsored by CSSP. She got involved with the work of HOPE through applying to participate on the FACES of HOPE advisory council. Last year, at our second annual HOPE Summit, Amber committed on the social wall "It seems as though ACES laid the ground work and HOPE shifts the work to a resilient and triumphant direction."
The HOPE Team

The HOPE National Resource Center

ROBERT SECE
Director

DINA BURSTEIN
Project Director

AMANDA WINN
Director of Training and Technical Assistance

ALLISON STEPHENS
Director of Networks, Networks and Policy

CORTNEY WIEBER
ICRPS Project Manager

LOREN MCCULLOUGH
Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator

LAURA GALLANT
Research Associate

ISABELLA PAGNOZZI
Project Coordinator

QUINN TUCKER
Research Assistant

DANIEL CHOI
Communications Manager
HOPE: Multi-level Dissemination Strategy

Objectives:
1. Training and Technical Assistance
   *build knowledge and skills*
2. Organizational transformation
   *through training and technical assistance*
3. Build public will for public policy change
   *through FACE, ambassadors, and publications*
4. Certification and standards
   *define high quality service delivery*
As an individual with essential human dignity. The HOPE Framework recognizes that positive childhood experiences (PCEs) for adults. Research data have shown that adults who remember PCEs have better lifelong mental health. PCEs protect childhood experiences (ACEs). This means that ACEs do not define a child's life or determine their fate.

Society still struggles with the lasting effects of hundreds of years of racism. Race is a social construct, and racism distributes certain groups based on their race. Racism can lead to barriers that make it challenging for children and families to have these

I make it harder for providers to identify and understand how families provide the love and support that their children need. HOPE-informed care seeks to help service providers show empathy by identifying, honoring, and promoting these family

Families of HOPE describe broad types of experiences that children need and leaves it to families and communities to decide on specific focus on HOPE and Positive Childhood Experiences brings to light the love, family, and community support that allow many types of racism. At the same time, the HOPE framework supports advocacy to ensure that every child has equitable access to the basics of their race.

Cultural humility allows the HOPE Framework to continue to improve and build on our evolving understanding of racism and
1. National Advisory Board

2. FACEs (family and community experts) of HOPE Advisory Council

3. HIN (HOPE Innovation Network)

HOPE’s National Advisory Board (NAB) is a group of passionate and diverse leaders who are committed to spreading HOPE. NAB members are highly-regarded and experts from higher education, medicine, advocacy, research, families, and non-profits. Yet, they all share a common purpose of expanding access to positive childhood experiences to children and youth of all backgrounds through ongoing, collaborative partnerships between providers and families. NAB members offer their support and guidance through recommendations and thoughtful discussion about the goals, priorities, mission, and values of HOPE.
Data about HOPE’s Reach

Trainings and Technical Assistance
- 319 Trainings
- ~25,000 Individuals
- 17 Sectors

HOPE Around the World
- 32 States + DC
- 3 Countries
- 16 Collaboration Projects

Training and Technical Assistance Growth
- FY21
- FY22
- FY23

Workshops
Facilitators
Champions
The FAAITH and HOPE project seeks to:

- To expand congregational home-visiting
- Acknowledge and address the effects of systemic racism when families try to access services and supports
- Walk away with a set of products, toolkit, or model for broad replication
About the HOPE
(Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) Framework
Children’s Brains Respond to Positive Experiences

New science shows brain changes after:

- Stroke
- Learning meditation & Literacy
- Post-Traumatic Growth

1. Brains can re-wire throughout life

Neurons that fire together wire together

Medicaldaily.com
2. Love changes brain function

Oxytocin and vasopressin change brains

Neurogrow.com
Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) Protect Adult Mental Health

Bethell C, Jones J, Gombojav N, Linkenbach J, Sege R. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels. JAMA Pediatr. 2019 Sep 9; e193007
Positive Childhood Experiences Mitigate ACEs Effects

% with Depression or Poor Mental Health

- **0-2 PCE**
- **3-5 PCE**
- **6-7 PCE**

Bethell C, Jones J, Gombojav N, Linkenbach J, Sege R. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels. JAMA Pediatr. 2019 Sep 9; e193007
More PCEs correlates to decreased substance use

- Montana BRFSS data related to substance use
The Four Building Blocks of HOPE

1. Relationships
2. Environment
3. Engagement
4. Emotional growth

**Sege and Browne.** Responding to ACEs with HOPE: Health Outcomes from Positive Experiences. *Academic Pediatrics* 2017; 17:S79-S85
About the scientific research behind the HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) Framework
Defining Community

Most people identify their communities by affiliation and culture, not zip code. Yet, most public health funding focuses only on where people live.

Robert Sege, MD, PhD, Founder & Director
National Resource Center, Tufts Medical Center
Black Church as a Community
Other Faith Communities Impact People of Color
The role of faith in parenting: considerations when implementing family skills interventions with families affected by armed conflict or displacement

Asla EL-Khatib, Rachel Calamin and Wadid Mgnuf

Religious beliefs and practices are fundamental to shaping family functioning in many countries and cultures around the world. They are often associated with a strong influence on parenting and a potential resource for parents, while incorporating spirituality can act as a protective shield, buffering against the negative effects on children’s well-being, armed conflict and displacement. Making faith a component of parenting skills interventions can provide valuable support for families affected by conflict and displacement.
Combining faith and HOPE

We believe that faith-based organizations are important institutions in the community… they have the ability to follow a family throughout the entire lifespan and to have interactions with families when they’re experiencing trauma. We are thrilled to have the opportunity… to demonstrate the impacts and effects that… faith leaders can have on supporting families.

Allison Stephens, Ph.D.
Director, of Networks & Policy
Co-Principal Investigator
Congregational home-visiting
Congregational Home-Visiting

Classic home-visiting programs:
1. Nurse Family Partnership
2. Healthy Families
3. Parents as Teachers
4. HIPPY
5. Head Start
6. Early Head Start
A faith-based practice of home-visiting to connect faith-leaders with early development.

Rev. Armstrong pioneered adding early childhood developmental education, including the HOPE framework, into home visits leading up to baby blessings.
Clergy (Imams, Pastors, Priests, Rabbis, Sheiks, etc.) implement home-visiting in three ways

1. Visit the homes of expecting parents
2. Educate families on child development, including the HOPE framework
3. Connect new parents to other new parents for peer-to-peer support networks
Engaging Faith Leaders in Trenton, NJ
Prioritizing Lived Experience

- Amber Robinson Parent leader and advocate
- Participant support funding – allocated in budget
- Racial equity needs assessment
- Feedback from faith leaders
Racial Equity Needs Assessment Description & Tool

• Understand barriers to access services and supports in medical, public health, and social services systems
• Directly address how systemic racism manifests
• Shifts focus from “fixing” children and families to dismantling racism
• Creating tool
  • Perceived Ethnic Discrimination Questionnaire – Community Version
  • Perception of Racism Scale
• Need a tool to focus on interactions with systems
Working Groups

- Equitable partnerships and decision-making authority
- Three systems represented: medical, public health, social services
- Requires training: faith leader participants, systems executives, parents
Statistical process control (SPC) is a set of powerful QI methods—which include the use of control charts—that can detect statistical changes in a healthcare process earlier than traditional research methodologies, including during the testing phase of an intervention.

Final Research Products

- Results of racial equity needs assessment
- Training curricula: faith leaders, systems leaders, parent leaders
- Methodology from quality control process
- Working group accord
Questions?

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One will be emailed to you.
Upcoming Webinars

May 17
12pm ET

An Aligned Delivery & Financing Model to Address Food Insecurity & Social Needs of Low-Income Pregnant Individuals

Register at:
https://systemsforaction.org/research-progress-webinars
Systems for Action is a National Program Office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a collaborative effort of the Colorado School of Public Health, administered by the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO.