

# Screening Connecticut's Youth (SCY): A presentation to the BHPOC Coordination of Care Committee



# Screening Connecticut's Youth: Why it's needed

- Half of All Mental Illness Begins Before Age 14
- In the US, 17% of All Children Have a Mental Health Condition
- The Prevalence Rate Jumps to 22% among Lower Socioeconomic Families

# Screening Connecticut's Youth: Why it's needed

- ▶ Only 20-30% of Teens Actually Receive Mental Health Treatment
- ▶ Those Who Do Not Receive Treatment Are At Risk for Long Term Downstream Impacts
- ▶ This Need Was Exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- ▶ Significantly and Disproportionately Impacted Low-income and Minority Communities.

# Screening Connecticut's Youth: How it started

- ▶ Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies (CCFSA) successfully requested federal Congressionally Directed Spending through Senators Blumenthal and Murphy.
- ▶ The senators recognized the impact that the pandemic/isolation had on everyone especially children and teens and secured federal funding.
- ▶ CCFSA secured additional funding from the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA).

# Screening Connecticut's Youth: Who does the work

- ▶ CCFSA contracted with 3 of its member organizations to provide SCY services.
- ▶ Klingberg Family Centers has 2 out of the 4 positions serving Connecticut and offers screenings in Spanish/English.
- ▶ Because of current staffing challenges in the other programs, Klingberg is serving statewide instead of regionally, as originally planned.



# Screening Connecticut's Youth: How it works

- ▶ The SCY Program screens children and adolescents ages 4 through 17 throughout Connecticut for early detection of mental health and trauma issues and, if needed, refers them to behavioral health services.
- ▶ There is no cost of receiving SCY services
- ▶ Upon receipt of a referral, the program is explained to the family and appropriate releases are obtained.

# Screening Connecticut's Youth: How it works

- ▶ Community Health Workers conduct the screenings in-person, over the phone, or via a virtual platform.
- ▶ Screenings take about 15 minutes per child/youth and include:
  - ▶ Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17)
  - ▶ Child Trauma Screen (CTS)
  - ▶ Social Determinants of Health Screening/Access Barriers
- ▶ Feedback/results are provided to the family, including referrals for behavioral health services as needed

# Screening Connecticut's Youth:

## Access support

- ▶ Community Health Workers work with families to address access challenges (e.g., transportation, child/eldercare, language barriers, technology, access, etc.)
- ▶ The program generally spends 30 days with the family to help them secure connection to clinical services
- ▶ Typical activities include:
  - ▶ developing transportation action plan
  - ▶ securing childcare
  - ▶ navigating clinical services in the family's primary language



# Screening Connecticut's Youth: What it's accomplished

- ▶ Klingberg began providing SCY services in January
- ▶ Our annual target is 450 youth screened
- ▶ To date we have provided slightly over 100 screenings



# Screening Connecticut's Youth: How to access services

- ▶ To refer a child to be screened or to hear more about the SCY Program

please call: 1-800-505-9000

or visit [CTFSA.org](http://CTFSA.org).



# Screening Connecticut's Youth: Questions and contact information

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