Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through the Development of a Resource Website: a Healthcare Provider, Academic, & Public Health Partnership

Robin Meneguzzo, FNP-C
Kelly Kamm, PhD, MHS
Outline

• Finding services in an underserved, rural area

• Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
  • Importance of SDOH screening
  • Evidence based system for SDOH screening

• Population-based research in communities
  • How place impacts priorities

• Our experience building an online resource list for SDOH in our underserved, rural community of the Western U.P.
Your organization is serving a client/patient that lives in zip code 49930. They indicate they need:

1. Medical care (non emergency, primary care)
2. Food assistance (intermittent food insecurity)
Using the resource assigned to your group, identify the potential community services that meet these needs.

Note the difficulties you encounter while finding this information in a timely manner.
Healthcare system

Biology & Genetic Endowment

Physical environment

Remaining life expectancy in the U.S. at age 25 by education and gender (2006)

Braveman & Gottlieb (2014) *Public Health Rep*
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Disease Risk

*Adjusted for age, gender, race, educational attainment

Screening for SDOH Improves Health

1. Distribute screening tool
2. Review responses
3. Determine needs
4. Connect patients to services
5. Continual reassessment of needs

All steps needed for health improvement
Build (and use) a great screening tool

**Essential domains to assess**
- Food insecurity
- Housing instability
- Utility needs
- Financial resource strain
- Transportation challenges
- Exposure to violence
- Socio-demographic information

**Optional domains to assess**
- Childcare
- Education
- Employment
- Health behaviors
- Social isolation & supports
- Behavioral/mental health

Healthleadsusa.org
Connecting patients to services

1. Distribute screening tool
2. Review responses
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5. Continual reassessment of needs

- Refer to a social worker, case manager, community health worker
- Refer to MDHHS navigation partner
- Refer to local health department
- Contact state 211 system
- Utilize publicly available online system

Healthleadsusa.org
Evaluate the impact

1. Distribute screening tool
2. Review responses
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- Referrals
- Receipt of referred services
- Changes in health outcomes
- Acceptability
- Knowledge, attitude changes
- Changes in resource-seeking behaviors
Front Line Health Care SDOH Screening

16% screen for all 5

24% screen for all 5

Fraze et al. (2019) JAMA Netw Open
Characteristics of Practices with Screening

1. Serving more disadvantaged patients
   • Higher Medicaid revenue

2. Institutional or administrative requirements
   • Federally Qualified Health Centers
   • Primary care improvement model
   • Medicaid ACO contract

3. Geography
   • Midwest was the worst

What's the situation in your community?

Fraze et al. (2019) JAMA Netw Open
Screening in our region (medical care)

1. Distribute screening tool
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- **In the last 12 months, has the electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off your services in your home?**
  - [Y] [N]

- **Do you need resources?**
- **How many servings of fruit do you eat each day?**

**Visual assessment**
Clinician and Community Identified Issue

- Clinician identified need
  - Digital centralization of health and social resource locator needed

- Community identified need
  - 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment (WUPHD)
  - One of the top 5 priorities

- Community input not driving typical research program development
Connecting patients to services

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2. Review responses
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4. **Connect patients to services**
5. Continual reassessment of needs

- Refer to a social worker, case manager, community health worker
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Not all health systems have these positions

Limited navigators, access

Limited access in some areas

Incomplete

Outdated, incomplete
Primary Care

Showing 1 locations serving people living in 49931-Houghton

HEALING THE CHILDREN/MICHIGAN - OHIO
HEALING THE CHILDREN/MICHIGAN - OHIO
HEALTH CARE AND TRANSPORTATION TO INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN IN NEED
📍 2140 44th Street SE | Grand Rapids, MI, 49508

HEALING THE CHILDREN/ MICHIGAN - OHIO
Works with liaisons in foreign countries to identify children needing help - medical or surgical care not available in their own country. Provides airfare and secures donated physician and hospital services. Patients are those children who do not qualify for government assistance. The reasons the child is unable to receive care in their home countr...

Serves: Michigan and Ohio

327.7 miles
Forging Partnerships

Community based participatory research

- Community Organizations
- Healthcare Providers
- Research study
- Academic Researchers

Shared ownership and decision making

Community based research

- Community Organizations
- Healthcare Providers
- Research study
- Academic Researchers

Active involvement of community
Clinician-Researcher Partnership

- Dec 2019: met at meeting organized by different researcher
- Jan 2020: cold called. Discuss needs, skills, and potential partnership
- Feb 2020: Immediate need for patients. Used volunteers to rapidly create a resource list
- Mar 2020: called
- Apr 2020: personal network connected to a ‘home’ for list

Icons from Noun Project, CDC PHIL
Screening for SDOH Improves Health

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• Review responses
• Determine needs
• Connect patients to services
• Continual reassessment of needs

Build a resource list
Research partnerships

• Grant applications
  • Proof of concept
  • Established collaborations
  • Community support

• Qualitative research study
  • Gained a broader understanding of needs
  • Informed the website development and design
  • Identified additional resources,
  • Strengthened community connections
  • Increased community engagement
Need a hand finding resources in the U.P?

Search by:
1. Category by clicking on the resource icons above
2. Location using the 'Search by Location' mapping feature
3. Search bar using free text below
Sustainability

- Local health department
  - IT support
  - Site licenses

- Researchers (faculty and students)
  - Advertising and promotion
  - Future grant seeking

- University curriculum
  - Course assignment to maintain accuracy

- Community
  - Feedback loop for new, updated resources

No burden on local service organizations
Future directions

• Collaborate with other pilot projects

• Improve and expand regionally

• Advocate for state level support of regional systems

More information does not always mean better connection to those resources
Contact us for more information:
Kelly Kamm, PhD, MHS (kbkamm@mtu.edu)
Robin Meneguzzo, FNC-P (robin@keweenawgives.org)
Ruralhealth-Kamm@mtu.edu

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