The Impact of Family Advocates In Addressing the Social Determinants of Health for Families in South Jersey

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Presentation Focus

- Project Partners & Background
- Previous Research Study & Findings
- Current Research Study
- Research Implications
Project Partners

Rutgers University | Camden
Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs

South Jersey Institute for Population Health

Family Strengthening Network

Rowan University
Family Strengthening Network

- FSN is a community based organization that provides informal supports to families
- Focus on fostering self-sufficiency
- Aims to improve the quality of life for family as a whole
Previous Research Study

• Goal: Describe the relationship between family advocates and the families they serve.

• Approach:
  • Identify changes in relationships between families and family advocates using valid and reliable tools
    • Family Assessment Tool
    • Working Together Survey: Relationships Quality Scale, Interpersonal Mattering Scale, Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support
    • Survey of 60 individuals
Previous Findings

• **Family Assessment Tool**: Significant growth
  • Stable Income
  • Employment
  • Housing
  • Mental Health

• **Family advocate relationship**: High at outset; growth over time

• **Mattering**: High at outset; growth over time

• **Perceived social support**: growth over time
  • Relationship between satisfaction with family advocates and family support
Current Research Study
Research Questions

Three main research questions:

1. **What is the impact of the Family Advocates on the individual, family, and community as it relates to SDOH?**

2. **How might this model be used to better understand and address SDOH in underserved and under-resourced communities?**

3. **How might this model be improved upon to better address the needs of the families served?**
Research Design

Qualitative Research Methods:

- **Focus Groups** - with Family Advocates
- **Interviews** - with families served by Family Advocates

**Areas of Study:** Gloucester, Cumberland, and Salem counties
Research Implications

• Shed light on the strategies FSN Family Advocates use that have led to success in addressing SDOH

• Highlight the specific barriers, successes, and challenges that families in these counties face

• Provide information that will better support policymakers, government agencies, and direct service providers in strengthening policy and programs to meet health-related needs
Thank you.