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

**New Jersey Public Health Association
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Presentation Focus

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

Project Partners



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**FAMILY
STRENGTHENING**
Network



Family Strengthening Network



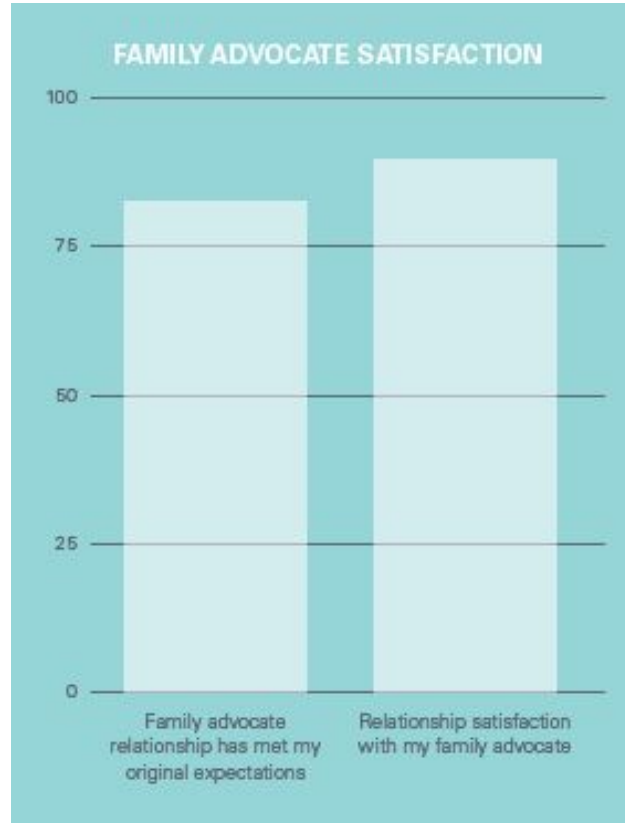
- FSN is a community based organization that provides informal supports to families
- Focus on fostering self-sufficiency
- Aims to improve the quality of life for family as a whole

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?***
- 1. How might this model be used to better understand and address SDOH in underserved and under-resourced communities?***
- 1. 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.



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