

PAT Meeting #22 06/05/2020

Attendance:

- 6 UB backbone staff (David Harrington, Kassa Belay, Dionne Grayman, Danielle Augustine, Athenia Rodney, Jason Ludwig)
- 26 PAT Members
- 8 FAB member

Objectives:

- Better understand the trauma faced by families and providers in the context of the protests against police brutality
- Introduce UB's Family Wellbeing Checklist tool—now on a user friendly online platform
- Announce UB's Corona Care Video Contest

Opener part I: Reflect on how the recent protests are affecting your work. UB is planning to incorporate these reflections into a statement of solidarity with protests against police violence.

- Responses:
 - Seth Lamar Power of Two. Our work continues with the recognition that the additional stress caused by the murders and the protests can further impact families daily life and they impact parenting.
 - Pam Potischman, UB and consultation: They are affecting my work in the change in focus. I see a lot of people are in a lot of pain and exhaustion. For many it is very triggering about previous traumas and worry for communities and children.
 - Ruth Horry, FAB Member, Project Coordinator for the Fresh Air Fund. This has affected every aspect of my job. We have to reach out to families during this difficult time and hear the pain that we can't heal. My interns are young 18 and 19 and they are out on the streets protesting as I hold my breath and pray that they should come home safely.
 - Suzanne Dougan, HealthySteps Brookdale. Work wise it is not affecting my work directly yet as a whole. But, we discuss it amongst our team. I am sure in the Mental Health spectrum, we will see more need for services.

- o Rhonda Frazier Johnso SCO Family of Services, Parent Advocate. It is affecting everyone including workers directly. People are at a heightened state of paranoia African American and Caucasian alike. Most recently I was racially profiled while shopping for groceries at a large chain
- o Stephanie Ludwig from SCO Nurse-Family Partnership. The protests and its cause have added another layer of stress to the concerns of living in the US as a person of color and in working with a population that is largely people of color. Worried about how they are responding to this additional stressor
- o Maria D from Nurse Family Partnership. Our clients are first time moms. Some of them are experiencing severe stress from COVID due to deaths of grandparents and illness. The Quarantine has increased everyone's stress and this has resulted in more family fights and threats. Some of the moms are delighted in the strengths of the protests, but some are afraid of the uncertainty and do not wish to go outside
- o Kristen Rocha Aldrich - Reach Out and Read of Greater NY. Because we don't work with families directly, I am not seeing an immediate impact. However, vaccination rates are already extremely low due to COVID and now our families are even more afraid to leave their homes to go to the doctor.
- o Evelyn from FAB and Family co-op. We continue to move forward and to support our young ones and send our families support during this time.
- o Allie Lieber from HealthySteps. We've been discussing the mental health impact on families and the ways each family is thinking about and discussing racism, violence and protests with their children
- o Meredith from Jumpstart: We're working on developing virtual programming for families, and these events have emphasized that we need to do better supporting our Black families and children. There's a sense of urgency that I recognize comes too late.
- o Dawn Fine from GRAHAM: It has opened up another opportunity for staff to share their insight and how we can plan to support the staff and populations we serve. In addition, we are strategically planning how use our community engagement to create change

Opener part II: In breakout groups discuss the following questions:

- 1. Are there unexpected consequences for families that you are noticing as a result of the protests?**

2. What has been the emotional impact for you of working with families experiencing trauma from the pandemic and the protests?

- Each breakout group shared their responses to the questions. Responses included:
 - Families feeling a difficult tension between wanting to support the protests and protect the family unit from the virus
 - Families and providers trying to manage the dual traumas of Covid and police brutality
 - Inspiring outpourings of global solidarity
 - Providers trying to making space for clients to speak about their feelings regarding police violence and the protests
 - Providers seeing the need for increased community and mental health support, as well as strategies for self care.
 - Families experiencing difficulty in explaining anti-black racism and racist violence to young children
 - Audrey G recommended some resources:
 - Sankofa Read Aloud on youtube,
 - *Something Happened in our Town* by Ann Hazzard, Marrienne Celano, and Marietta Collins
 - *Not Quite Snow White* by Ashley Franklin
 - *Don't Touch my Hair!* By Sharee Miller

UB News and Updates

- 7 PAT members tested UB's Family Wellbeing Checklist Tool and UB incorporated their feedback alongside FAB feedback into the latest tool version
- Welcome back Jason Ludwig to the UB backbone team
- Corona Care Video Contest:
 - Most of the media about COVID-19 doesn't relate to NYC residents. We launched this contest on June 3 to encourage residents to share how they are helping their neighbors, family, friends, and loved ones stay safe during the outbreak. We are accepting submission through 6/17- later revised to 7/1/20
 - 1st prize: \$500 gift card for Facebook, \$500 gift card for Instagram
 - 2nd prize: \$300 gift card for Facebook, \$300 gift card for Instagram

- 3rd prize: \$200 gift card for Facebook, \$200 gift card for Instagram
 - Visit website to learn more: <https://www.unitedforbrownsville.org/news/videocontest>
- Solving needs not met elsewhere: UB and FAB volunteers helped to distribute food and goods at Riverdale Avenue Community School (RACS) on Thursdays through partnerships with Brighter Bites and residents. Sign up on Plentiful (app/text message).
 - 70,000 pounds of produce
 - 8,000 facemasks,
 - 10,500 diapers
 - 2,000 children's books
 - thousands of bars of soap and alcohol wipes.
 - Nearly 700 households a week, reaching an estimated 4,000 individuals on May 28 and June 4
 - Continuing challenges: Supply chains (delays, costs, availability) and overwhelming demand locally

Resource Directory □ Online Well-being Checklist Draft 1

- UB is merging the UB **coronavirus resource directory** with the **social distancing driver diagram** into a **new family wellbeing checklist** to offer providers a uniform way
 - to check in with clients
 - connect them to the resources they need
 - enable safe social distancing during the pandemic, when possible
- This checklist tool has been crowdsourced by FAB and PAT.
- UB Vision: This tool lives beyond the pandemic for coordinated response in Brownsville
- Example of Physical Distancing Checklist Questions:

United for Brownsville Physical Distancing Checklist: Physical distancing during the COVID-19 public health crisis affects everyone differently. This checklist is meant to be a tool for you to use to help determine where the greatest need lies during your communications with individuals, families, or communities and help you connect them to resources in real time.

<p>Physical Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are you able to find and afford face masks and other personal protective equipment? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you facing eviction or have concerns about being forced to move out of your house even though you don't want to? <input type="checkbox"/> Would you like info on free food for you, or family, friends or neighbors of yours? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for options to receive medical support via your phone or a video visit? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for free delivery of medication? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for COVID-19 testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for guidance on how to care for a family member with the Coronavirus right now? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you feel safe at home right now? If anyone is threatening you at home or making you feel unsafe there are resources that can help. Are you experiencing violence at home? 	<p>Mental and Social Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are you feeling stressed out?... Would it help to talk with a counselor? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you able to stay connected to friends and family by phone or through the internet since being together physically is complicated right now? <input type="checkbox"/> If you had the opportunity to volunteer, would you? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you need help finding resources and support beyond what we've covered today?
<p>Economic Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have a bank account that would enable you to cash your stimulus check or receive it via direct deposit? <input type="checkbox"/> Did you receive your stimulus check yet? <input type="checkbox"/> Has your employer made any workplace accommodations for you and your colleagues during the pandemic? <input type="checkbox"/> Has your boss or employer requiring you to work in ways that violate New York State laws regarding coronavirus? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for employment right now? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you interested in public benefits but concerned that your or a loved one's immigration status will impact your eligibility? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you concerned about paying off student loans right now? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have questions about loans and grants available for business right now? 	<p>Clear, Accurate Information and Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for guidance on how to care for a family member with the Coronavirus right now? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for up to date and trustworthy sources for current events, information and news related to the COVID-19 pandemic right now?
<p>Supports for Children of All Ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have questions about how to get internet access and devices specifically so that your child, or children of friends, family or neighbors can continue school online? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for childcare options right now? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for activities to do with your children, while at home, that don't involve screens (as much)? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking for online activities to do with your children, while at home? 	

For resources that may help fill the gaps, visit:
<https://www.unitedforbrownsville.org/coronavirus>

DRAFT: May 20, 2020

- 7 PAT members tested the first draft of the checklist tool. 6 of them found it useful to their work with clients. Specific feedback included:
 - “The tool was enormously helpful”
 - Even when questions or resources did not apply to clients, the checklist did provide them with valuable information that they might share with others they know who might be in need of it. In this way, the checklist tool can be a means of emphasizing the agency of clients as both receiving and offering help.

Family Wellbeing Checklist Tool Second Draft

- FAB members offered revisions to make every question on the first checklist tool draft more caring and neighborly:

Draft 1 question pre-FAB feedback:
Would you like to talk with a licensed mental health counselor?



Draft 2 questions post-FAB:

- *Do you feel stressed right now?*
- *Have you had trouble sleeping?*

- *Do you feel like you can't stop worrying?*
- *Have you lost interest in doing things that you normally enjoy?*
- *Would it help to talk with a counselor?*

- DH offered a demonstration of the Alpha version of the online checklist tool, which incorporates the questions and resources revised by the FAB. The demonstration focused on the ways in which providers can save resources that are especially relevant to their work with clients.
- UB will remain committed to vetting resources and keeping the tool up to date through a “submit a resource” feature. The goal is to be able to collect feedback about resources that can be reported back to the organizations providing them.
- UB plans to collect data on usage of the checklist tool in order to inform updates to the tool based on user preferences and to offer a continuous snapshot of neighborhood level needs
- PAT feedback included:
 - “Fantastic Resource!”
 - Volunteering resources emphasize the agency of people as both receiving and offering help—it would be great to continue adding these and similar resources.
- Alpha Version Testing:
 - Help us beta test our online checklist with one client
 - Tell us what’s good about it and what needs improvement via a short survey
 - 5-10 volunteers needed

Next Steps

- PAT members test tool and report back to UB
- UB improves tool based on testing and prepares to launch ASAP
- Look for an official Corona Care Video Contest announcement email