Investing in Child Health and Well-being

Presented by:
Dr. Kelly Kelleher, MD, MPH
CCHEOR
Abigail Wexner Research Institute
June 17, 2021
COVID and Children: When surviving is not surviving well

- Children
  - Already most poor age group
  - Most likely to become poor
  - Most likely to remain poor
BH Patients in the NCH ED

Number of Visits with a Psychiatric or Behavioral Health Diagnosis

Source: EDW

↑ 466%
Rate of Death by Suicide in US vs. Franklin County: Ages 5-19

US Average (2011-2018) = 3.9
Franklin Co. Average (2011-2018) = 3.7
Emergency Room Visits for Suicide Attempts
COVID and Children: When surviving is not surviving well

- Economic effects > immediate health effects
  - Poverty and unemployment
  - Homelessness and family violence
  - Education disruption
  - Low immunization rates (ie: measles)
  - Increase in drug use, MH and trauma-related conditions
- Decrease in tax revenue and not for profit organizations
Investing in Child Health and Well-being

- Building health (and healthcare)
- Building family wealth
- Building community wealth
Nationwide Children’s Family Centered Model

Healthy Neighborhoods
Healthy Families Model
Investing in Child Health and Well-being: Health and Healthcare

• Breaking the 4th wall of the practice: Radical engagement
  • School based
  • Mobile
  • Texting
  • Home visiting
  • Partners

• Telehealth and digital care work
• All children (population health)
• All care for children (child-centered community)
Investing in Child Health and Well-being: Building Family Wealth

- Principle: Family financial health as important as medical care
- National Academy of Medicine plan to reduce child poverty
Investing in Child Health and Well-being: Building Family Wealth

- Implement in clinics:
  - Tax clinics (Earned Income, Child Care and new Child tax credits)
  - Utility supports
  - SSI enrollment for children with qualifying disabilities
  - Medicaid enrollment
  - Financial literacy

- Implement in health system:
  - Neighborhood hiring, training and promotion efforts
  - New local purchasing efforts
  - Livable wage
Investing in Child Health and Well-being: Building Community Wealth

- Shared equity
  - Community land trusts
  - CDFI + Community Development Corp (CDC) joint ventures for housing
  - Credit union investment
  - Home ownership with subsidies

- Community ownership
  - CDC joint ownership with hospital
  - Bike Co-operative
  - Fresh produce collaborative
  - ++See Democracy Collaborative
Investing in Child Health and Well-being

- History of poor stewardship of children in US
  - Red-lining/racism
  - Child underinvestment (ie: a side effect of our democracy)
- Worsened by COVID, especially poverty

Franklin County Opportunity Index Map
RED = LEAST OPPORTUNITY/HIGHEST RISK
Investing in Child Health and Well-being

- Investments should focus upon:
  - Transformed child health system
    - All children, all doors open, all care for children
  - Build family wealth
    - Build access to entitlements, credits, resources
    - Build income and literacy
  - Build community wealth
    - Shared equity
    - Community ownership