

St. Catherine University

From the Selected Works of Meghan Mason, PhD

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Healthcare Providers Addressing Needs of Children and Families Experiencing Housing Instability

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Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/meghan-mason/1/>

How Do Healthcare Providers Address the Needs of Children and Families Experiencing Housing Instability? A Multisite Qualitative Study

Presented By Sia Xiong
Saint Catherine University
April 21, 2020

Background

- Effects of housing instability include:
 - Poor physical and mental health
 - Delays in seeking medical care
 - Higher incidence of child hospitalizations
 - Higher odds of poor health in children
 - Higher odds of poor health for caregivers, typically mothers
- No recommended screening protocols exist for housing status, specifically for children and caregivers
- Gap in providing services for families experiencing homelessness
- Study Purpose: To explore and establish best practices for serving children and families experiencing homelessness in a primary care setting



Methods



Recruitment from
NNEFH Health
Committee



13 in-depth phone
interviews



Rural and Urban
locations



Grounded theory
approach

Results

Client Range

Clinic
Characteristics

Screening
Techniques

Best Practices

Challenges

Recommendations

Quotes

Barriers

“One case manager for 7,500 primary care visits, not to mention the specialty case visits, it’s an impossible task for just one person.”

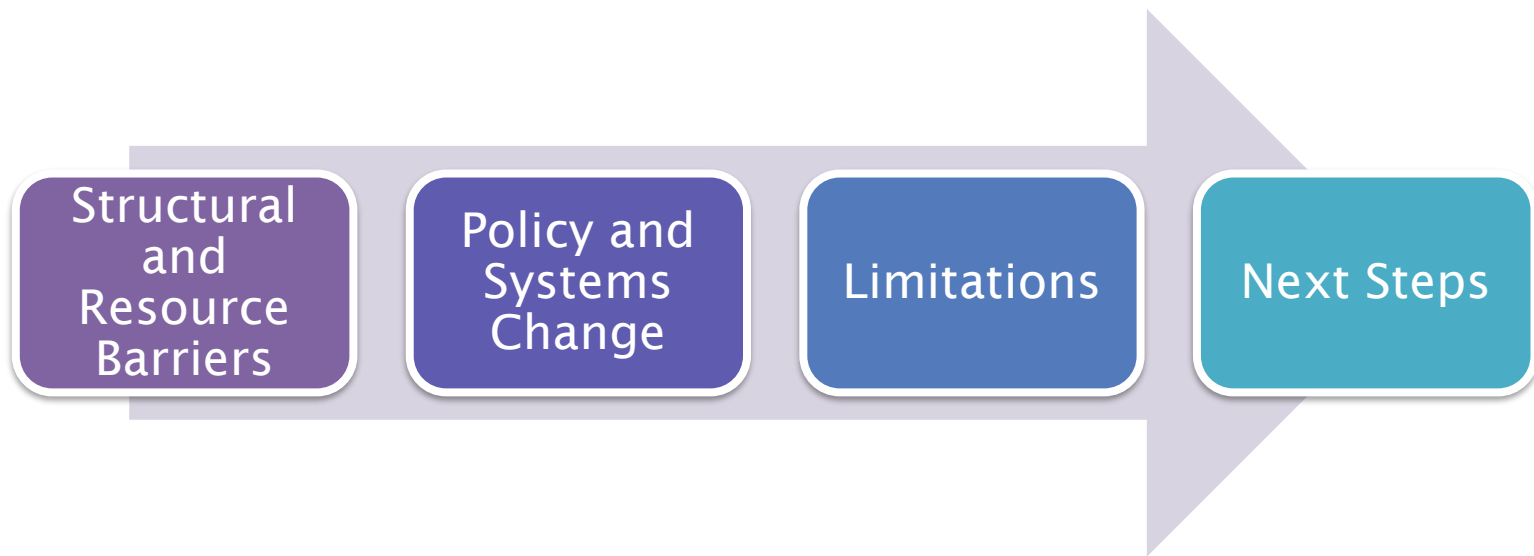
Strengths

“Our clinic is sort of the foundations of harm reduction, trauma-informed care, we do motivational interviewing for pretty much every single visit and you know if there’s then obviously we screen for that. Usually the first thing you wanna know is establishing safety.”

Recommendations

“Wouldn’t that be nice if we just click a button to add their name to some waiting list, or connect them immediately to the Boston Housing Authority who could talk them through a very simple application process, or just something to connect the Medical Home to the resource, the civic, governmental resource like public housing. So we don’t have a bridge at all. I don’t even know who to call, and every time we do this it’s brute force, starting from scratch, reinventing the wheel.”

Conclusion



Researchers

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- **Marvin So, MPH, CHES** – National Network to End Family Homelessness / Bassuk Center
- **Christine Ma, MD** – University of California, San Francisco
- **Jacki Hart, MD** – National Network to End Family Homelessness / Bassuk Center
- **Avik Chatterjee, MD, MPH** – Harvard University
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