

Nathaniel Z. Counts, JD

Associate Vice President of Policy

Mental Health America

 @MentalHealthAm

Exploring Policy Solutions

Let's continue on SDOH and prevention

- Health care reform is clearly important:
 - Quality measurement
 - Peer support services
 - Alternative payment models
 - Quality improvement
 - Pop health analytics

- BUT so many opportunities to stop it from getting that far!

Screening and referral not enough for SDOH

- CommunityRx is the most sophisticated, large-scale pilot of addressing SDOH through health care
- At 3 months:
 - Confidence in finding resources doubled
 - About half even shared resources with others
 - No change in mental or physical HR-QoL
- Likely need higher intensity intervention, with attention to making sure the resources meet needs

Lindau ST, Makelarski JA, Abramsohn EM, Beiser DG, Boyd K, Chou C, Giurcanu M, Huang ES, Liao C, Schumm LP, Tung EL. CommunityRx: a real-world controlled clinical trial of a scalable, low-intensity community resource referral intervention. *American journal of public health*. 2019 Apr;109(4):600-6.

How can federal legislation help?

- Mainstream mental health and suicide prevention into policies that govern SDOH risk factors, and promote linkages with health
- Four case studies:
 - School
 - Workplace
 - Financial services/economic development
 - Family and relationship supports

School

- Several relevant risk factors:
 - Peer exclusion and bullying
 - Academic challenges
 - Trauma interactions
- Three major federal laws:
 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - Higher Education Act

Workplace

- Several relevant risk factors:
 - Peer exclusion and bullying
 - Career attainment challenges
 - Financial insecurity

- Several major federal laws:
 - Labor Standards
 - Occupational Safety and Health
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Financial Services/Economic Development

7

- Couple relevant risk factors:
 - Financial insecurity
 - Social isolation

- Collection of federal laws:
 - Housing and Community Development Act
 - Community Renewal Tax Relief Act
 - Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection

Family and Relationship Supports

- Couple relevant risk factors:
 - Interpersonal conflict
 - Social isolation
 - Trauma
- Collection of random federal laws:
 - Deficit Reduction Act/Claims Resolution Act
 - Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
 - Preventive Health Amendments

Conclusion

- We can and should address SDOH to prevent suicide in federal legislation
- Takes creativity to get from federal law to on-the-ground impact in such a diverse area