

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Do the perspectives on the need of mental health counseling among foster parents and teens explain the use of the mental health services among teens in foster care?

Karena Knight

Objective:

To understand the relationship between foster parents' and foster teens' perspectives on mental health treatment and assess how the concordance among both perspectives can be used to understand foster teens' use of mental health services.

Background:

Studies have shown that children in foster care experience a higher prevalence of mental health problems when compared to comparable underprivileged children who are not in care. Despite the availability of mental health services, only a small percentage of the foster care children use them. Such findings have led us to investigate possible barriers to teens in foster care pursuing mental health counseling.

Methods:

This is a secondary analysis of an already existing dataset that consisted of primary interviews with foster parents and early adolescents in foster care. Interviews were conducted in the residential homes of foster parents and teens who resided in an urban city in upstate New York. Interviews were audio taped, transcribed and matched in pairs according to foster mother and foster child. Analysis will be conducted via coding and triangulation of the data.

Committee Chair:

Nancy P. Chin, PhD, MPH

Committee Members:

Ann Dozier, RN, PhD

Sandra Jee, MD

Monday, December 14, 2009

12:00PM – 12:30 PM

Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301

EVERYONE IS WELCOME