Cunningham Children's Home: Literature Review

Toni Andres, Davis Coffey, Jayda Davis, Brayden Percival

Lakeview College of Nursing

N442: Population and Global Health

Professor Katie King

03/18/2024

Cunningham Children's Home: Literature Review

Cunningham Children's Home was founded in 1895 and was brought to serve as an orphanage to the local children in Champaign and Urbana, Illinois. Over the many years, Cunningham Children's Home has served thousands of members throughout the community. Cunningham Children's Home is located in Urbana, Illinois, and sits on many acres of land with multiple buildings and buildings throughout the community. Volunteering for two Thursdays for four hours in February, the group helped bag up Epsom salt for children in one of Cunningham's many programs to help with the spread of athlete's foot in one of their residential buildings. The group got a tour of the many buildings and a history lesson. The group also spoke with the supervisor nurse, who explained their job and how they help in the many programs Cunningham Children's Home offers.

Cunningham Children's Home has four primary service programs, including a residential treatment center for kids in the Department of Children and Family Services, where they provide schooling and housing and teach the kids life skills as they await placements once upon exiting their program either to their families or foster families. Cunningham also serves a program called CAMINOS which houses immigrant kids who have crossed the border and are awaiting placements in the community. Cunningham offers special education schools where they partner with Champaign and Vermillion county school districts to help educate kids with behavioral problems. Cunningham also offers community services, serving people experiencing homelessness, counseling services, helping pregnant and parenting teenagers, and working with runaway homeless youth programs. This agency was chosen because Cunningham Children's Home serves much of the population in Champaign and surrounding counties, and it relates to nursing as the group learned about many resources Cunningham offers to help serve and take care of the community.

Student 1: Toni Andres

Leveraging Leadership in Child Welfare Systems: Large-Scale Trauma-and Resilience Informed Training Initiative

Cunningham Children's Home is an example of a facility in the public health system that is critical in addressing the needs of traumatized children in the child welfare system (CWS). It provides trauma-informed principles presented by skilled professionals trained in trauma-based care. The CWS represents many levels: individuals, families, providers, and community organizations, among other entities (Rodriguez et al., 2022). When the CWS places a child, they often have trauma due to repeated separations and numerous placements.

Training that is most appropriate for providers in elements directly related to prevention, treatment, and assessment often fails (Rodriguez et al., 2022). The focus of policy, however, has been directed on mental health service providers rather than system leaders, who are often the first line for policymaking and key to a successful implementation of policies regarding training and treatment. Organizations based on trauma-based care can create relationships and prove to be a key to implementation.

Outcomes of the first system-wide workforce development rollout evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of specialized training, specifically by assessing knowledge gain and practice change and developing action plans (Rodriguez et al., 2022). Most participants reported an intention to focus more on trauma-based care. Likewise, participants mentioned that focusing on trauma topics during workforce development was fundamental to creating an environment of support and understanding. Several themes emerged from this development, including empathy/patience, active listening, openness, self-care, and trauma-informed culture.

The establishment of the infrastructure of public health systems around trauma-based care is fundamental to addressing the needs of traumatized children involved in the CWS (Rodriguez et al., 2022). A recent evaluation of statewide and local trauma and resilience to inform care initiatives shows improvements in staff trauma knowledge. The Cunningham Children's Home can provide that level and type of care.

"Psychological Boarding" and Community-Based Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization

Cunningham Children's Home is a safe environment that serves a vulnerable population of youth who are severely emotionally disordered, as well as youth who present with self-harming and violent behavior. Due to a lack of community mental health care organizations, emergency rooms have become a holding area for people who are suffering from issues of a behavior or mental health emergency, also known as a psychiatric emergency (Mukherjee & Saxon, 2019). There has been a rise in the hospitals of patients with psychiatric emergencies. These organizations can provide a safe and secure home-type environment that is serviced by specialized staff trained in trauma-based care. The Department of Children and Family Services is also called upon for certain circumstances.

There has been a 45% increase in hospitals over the last ten years for patients with psychiatric emergencies (Zeller et al., 2014). This increase has caused hospital emergency departments to subcontract their psychiatric emergency cases to other hospital-based or community-based crisis facilities (Mukherjee & Saxon, 2019). These entities can provide a home-like environment serviced by staff trained in trauma-based care. Historically, community and mental health organizations have contracted with the area hospitals to offer on-call counselors to the emergency department to address non-medical patient needs.

There are several barriers and challenges that can present themselves when trying to place a child in a mental health care facility. One challenge is transportation logistics, getting the patient to the facility from a rural-based emergency department. However, according to information presented by Mukherjee and Saxon in the article "Psychological Boarding" and Community-Based Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization, financial support is one of the most significant barriers. There is a nationwide lack of psychiatric doctors and nurses in rural areas because of the stigmatization of the profession of psychiatry, lack of competitive salary, and a general lack of a trained workforce (Mukherjee & Saxon, 2019).

This article demonstrates why programs and facilities such as the Cunningham Children's Home are a precious resource to the communities it serves. The Department of Child and Family Services works closely with the Cunningham Children's Home. There are many individuals and circumstances that demonstrate the necessity for this type of facility. Organizations such as the Cunningham Children's Home intend to bring change in surrounding communities by creating awareness of this vulnerable population.

Student 2: Davis Coffey

Unaccompanied Immigrant Children in Long-Term Foster Care: Identifying and Operationalizing Child Welfare Outcomes

In this study it focuses on finding out how child welfare outcomes are defined for unaccompanied children living in long-term foster care (Crea et al., 2022). The article lists that many unaccompanied immigrant children migrate to the United States to avoid gang violence, economic concerns, trafficking risks, abuse, and a variety of other factors. When arriving in the United States, Customs and Border Protection transfer them to refugee camps or shelters where

the unaccompanied children will find foster placement. While federal policies lack certain guidelines that define maintaining the safety of unaccompanied children in the foster care system, the study emphasized the importance of the need for more definitive guidelines. For unaccompanied immigrant children who are placed in long-term foster care rather than domestic foster care, the goal is for eventual independence and self-sustainability. The study found that the most common themes that can be improved on with unaccompanied minors in long-term foster care are that of increased protection against traffickers, emotional support, placement stability, legal status, and holistic well-being. The article goes on to say how the entire long-term foster care system in general can be improved from what it currently is.

Tinea Pedis in Underrepresented Groups: All of Us Database Analysis.

Tinea pedis, also known as athlete's foot, is a common dermatophyte infection that primarily affects the soles, clefts, nails, and skin of the feet (Moseley et al., 2023). Recent reports have shown that there is a prevalence of it from 1.9% to 4.1% in the United States. This study focused on finding more demographic data in underrepresented groups since previous data was not well established. Researchers stated that previous studies have shown that men have a more likely chance of acquiring a Tinea pedis infection potentially due to more participation in manual labor and sports. Researchers of this study used electronic health records from 329,038 individuals to collect data on individuals who have had or currently have a Tinea pedis infection. The results showed that black and Hispanic participants with lower education and lower income had higher odds of having a Tinea pedis infection compared to those of white participants. Elderly participants above the age of 75 along with participants with physical disabilities also had an increased risk of obtaining a Tinea pedis infection.

Student 3: Brayden Percival

Health Care Utilization of Individuals Affected by Homelessness: Illinois, 2011-2018

Cunningham Children's Home offers various community services, including assisting the homeless populations in Champaign and Vermilion Counties in finding adequate housing. A program that is offered at the organization is a Runaway Homeless Program. An example of the use of this program is to help teen mothers find housing to help them become independent and guided. Young children and adolescents face struggles with healthcare and comorbidities because they often lack access to regular medical care, leading to undiagnosed and untreated health issues (Madigan & Friedman, 2021). Additionally, living in unstable conditions can make it challenging to manage chronic illnesses and mental health conditions effectively.

Cunningham Children's Home provides the guidance and resources needed for homeless populations to thrive, including hospital visits, primary care needs, guidance, housing, education, and support. The article supports the organization by reviewing individuals who experience homelessness in high-income countries. Surveillance of the homeless population is needed to make public health strategies ideal and beneficial to the patient (Madigan & Friedman, 2021). Cunningham Children's Home is an excellent example of surveillance in the community, which benefits both the patient and public health records in the region (Madigan & Friedman, 2021). Homeless children have more significant needs than a child with housing due to the lack of stable housing, access to regular and nutritional meals, healthcare, and educational resources. These challenges can significantly impact their physical, emotional, and cognitive development (Madigan & Friedman, 2021).

Young Adults and their Families Living with Mental Illness: Evaluation of the Usefulness of Family-Centered Support Conversations in Community Mental Health Care Settings

Cunningham Children's Home offers services to the youth, adults, and families who experience challenging life situations in the community. HopeSprings is a program the organization offers that provides individual, family, and group therapy sessions, school-based services, and case management services. The HopeSprings program can assist individuals and families with counseling and group therapy sessions among those who have faced similar life situations. School-based services help the organization work among the schools in the community to learn coping strategies at home, school, and in the community. The service may also help individuals with mental health and behavioral issues to help the client understand their own needs and relationships. The client gains from case management's client-centered approach to comprehensive care and rehabilitation within the program.

The purpose of this study was to assess the value of Family-Centered Support Conversations (FCSC), which are provided to young adults and their families who are experiencing mental illness in Norway's community mental health care system (Aass et al., 2020). FCSC can be related to HopeSprings, as both programs try to achieve a therapeutic environment that leads to healing. The FCSC is a family nursing intervention that is based on the Illness Beliefs Model and the Calgary Family Assessment and Intervention Models (Aass et al., 2020). It focuses on teaching family members how to identify resources and strengths within the family, share and reflect on everyday life experiences while living with mental illness, and be supportive of one another (Aass et al., 2020). Families were allowed to discover new opportunities and meanings in daily life through the family nursing talks concerning family structure and function in the setting of mental illness (Aass et al., 2020). Counseling services within the community can promote healing with one-on-one counseling, family sessions with a

counselor, and group therapy with peers and family to discuss feelings and topics among the

group.

References

Aass, L. K., Skundberg-Kletthagen, H., Schröder, A., & Moen, Ø. L. (2020). Young Adults and

their families living with mental illness: Evaluation of the usefulness of family-centered

support conversations in community mental health care settings. *Journal of Family

Nursing, 26*(4), 302–314. https://doi.org/10.1177/1074840720964397

Crea, T. M., Evans, K., Lopez, A., Hasson, R. G., Palleschi, C., & Sittley, L. (2022).

Unaccompanied immigrant children in long-term foster care: Identifying and

operationalizing child welfare outcomes. *Child & Family Social Work, 27*(3), 500–512.

https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12902

Madigan, D., & Friedman, L. S. (2021). Health care utilization of individuals affected by

homelessness. *Medical Care, 59*(Suppl 2), S158–S164.

https://doi.org/10.1097/mlr.0000000000001444

Moseley, I., Ragi, S. D., Ouellette, S., & Rao, B. (2023). Tinea pedis in underrepresented groups:

All of Us database analysis. *Mycoses, 66*(1), 29–34. https://doi.org/10.1111/myc.13522

Mukherjee, D., & Saxon, V. (2019). "Psychological boarding" and community-based behavioral

health crisis stabilization. *Community Mental Health Journal, 55*(3), 375–384.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-018-0237-9

Rodriguez, A., Fei, Z., Barrera, W. A., Tsao, E. H., Waterman, J., Franke, T. M., Mogil, C. E.,

Bonilla, B., Cugley, G. M., Gillams, T., & Langley, A. (2022). Leveraging leadership in

child welfare systems: Large-scale trauma- and resilience-informed training initiative.

The Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research, 50(1), 18–35.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s11414-022-09815-2

Zeller, S., Calma, N., & Stone, A. (2014). Effect of a regional dedicated psychiatric emergency

    service on boarding and hospitalization of psychiatric patients in area emergency

    departments. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine, 15*(1), 1–6.

    https://doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2013.6.17848