Albany Park Refugee and Immigrant Youth Mental Health Project

World Relief-Chicago
Albany Park Community

- Located in the Northwest side of Chicago
- Third Most Diverse Zip Code in the United States
- 150 year history as the New arrival neighborhood.
World Relief-Chicago

• Refugee Resettlement Agency Since 1980
• WR-C provides services through the following avenues:
  » Refugee Resettlement and Employment
  » Immigration and Legal Services
  » Education Department
  » Horizons Mental Health Clinic
WR-C Youth Focused Services

• **School Based Services**
  – School Enrollment
  – After School and Summer Programming
  – School and Classroom Interventions
  – Teacher Education

• **Mental Health Services**
  – Therapy Groups
  – ‘Mental Health Screenings
  – Individualized Treatment Planning)

• **Outreach**
  – School Advocacy
  – Home Visits
  – Parent Advisory Board
Country of Origin for Clients Served

- Clients from over twenty nations who speak more than thirty languages
  - Afghanistan
  - Burundi
  - Burma
  - Colombian
  - Cuban
  - Ethiopia
  - Kosovo
  - Liberia
  - Meshketian Turkish
  - Sierra Leon
  - Somali
  - Somali Bantu
  - Sudan
  - Togo
  - DR Congo
Staff Demographic

- Staff Demographics for WR-C’s permanent staff members (full and part time)
  - 23 women; 8 men
  - Staff speak 17 languages
  - 9 staff members are foreign born; 1 is the child of first generation immigrants
  - Staff have lived in 25 countries for an average of 18.5 months each
  - 13 staff members have graduate degrees; 14 have bachelors degrees
Project Description

– Located in Albany Park to address the comprehensive mental health needs of the large youth community

– Aims to create a web of service providers, community stakeholders, particularly parents, and schools to address both on a micro and macro level the mental health needs of Albany Park Youth
Mental Health Services

• Care Team Approach
• On-site Outreach worker with office hours at schools for parents to access
• Services to include-
  – Individual and Group Counseling provided in the schools with a focus the two local schools that serve the majority of the neighborhood children
Training

• Training of mental health staff in collaboration with University of Illinois at Chicago
  – Initial Focus on TFCBT

• Looking at Best Practice and its efficacy with international communities
  – Clinician Input regarding current practice and efficacy of Best Practice Techniques
Partnership with Families

- Mental Health Consortium
- Parent Council
- Parent Board
- Parent Groups
  - On Site at High School
Project Partners

• Partners
  – Alternatives
    • School Based Health Clinic
  – Roosevelt High School
    • Welcome Center
  – Hibbard Elementary School
  – Chicago Public Schools Office of Language and Culture
  – University of Illinois at Chicago
Partner Roles

• Building strong collaboration to create wide range of support throughout Albany Park for families.
• Working directly with Health Clinic at the High School Level
• Working with the CPS system through existing programs to build stronger network for families
• Focus on Advocacy through the Mental Health Consortium
• Project over site through the Advisory Board