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Symposium WP-1  
Wednesday, July 26, 2006

## **Implementation and Sustainability of the Early Risers Prevention Program in an Urban Community Family Social Services Agency**

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This presentation will describe the metamorphosis of a community agency as it gradually adopted and implemented the Early Risers program in successive stages ultimately leading to sustainability of program operations and funding. This agency, Pillsbury United Communities (PUC), is actually a network of neighborhood centers that provides social services for marginalized and disenfranchised people mainly of minority backgrounds residing in Minneapolis. In a program of action research, transfer of the control of the program technology was moved from program developers to PUC agency practitioners. In this presentation we will review three phases of action research: (1) PUC practitioners deliver the program with supervision, technical assistance, and funding provided by the program developers; (2) PUC practitioners deliver, supervise, and fund the program through a foundation grant, while program developers provide technical assistance; and (3) PUC practitioners deliver and supervise the program, program developers provide technical assistance, with sustainable funding provided by a local county system of care. Program infrastructure, implementation procedures, supervision, and technical assistance methods will be discussed for all three initiatives. Most of the paper will present program evaluation data pertaining to client outcomes, such as participation rates of children/parents and pre-post changes on indicators of child behavioral and social adjustment, within each of these initiatives. The session will also underscore lessons learned by the PUC agency, the local county government funding entity, and the research team.