

South Side 2018 - Fact Sheet



Improving Crisis Response for Individuals with Mental Health Challenges

Evaluation

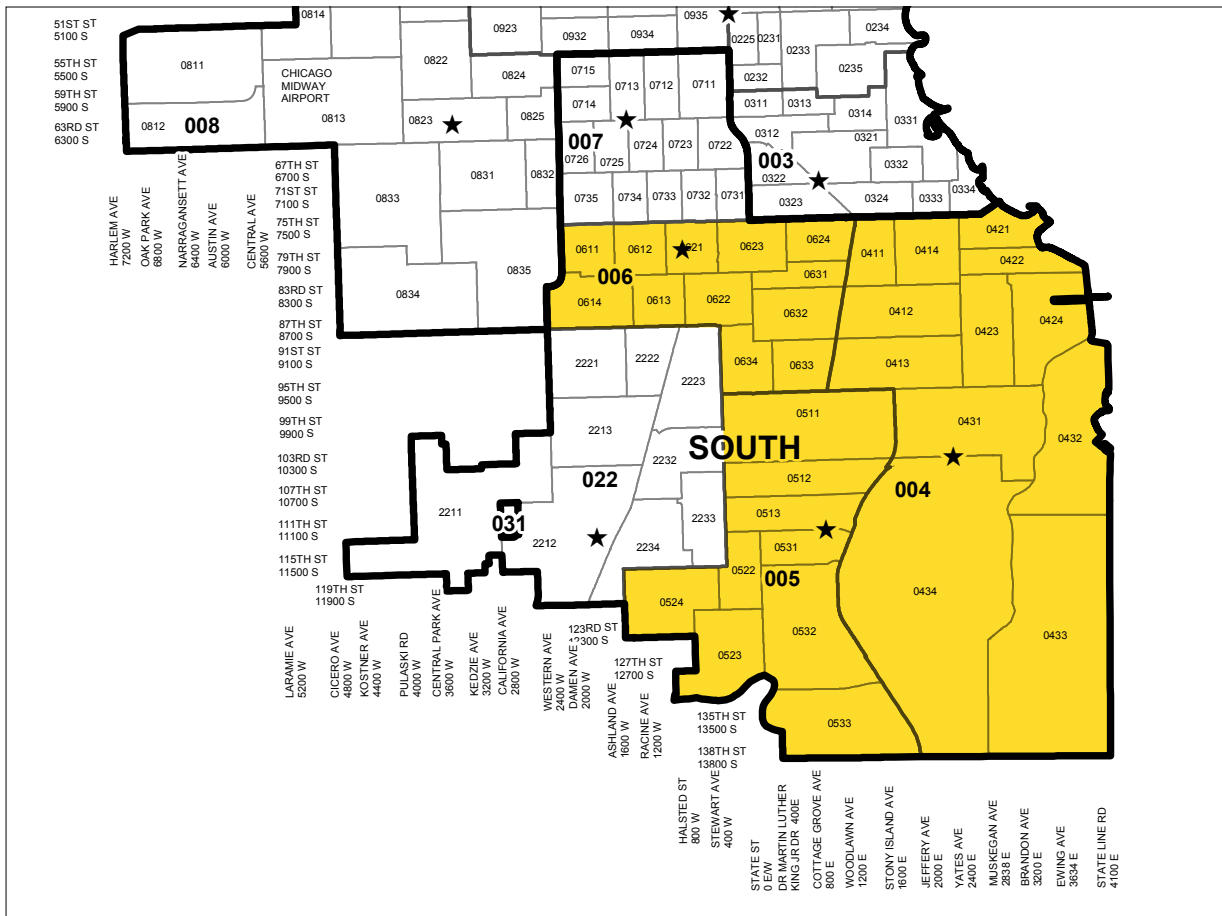
- University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams College of Social Work, led by Dr. Amy C. Watson and Dr. Lorrie Rickman-Jones.

About

- A community-based initiative that provided free mental health training to 751 community members living and/or working in the south side communities that include all or parts of Auburn Gresham, Avalon Park, Burnside, Calumet Heights, Chatham, East Side, Greater Grand Crossing, Hegewisch, Pullman, Riverdale, Roseland, South Chicago, South Deering, South Shore, and West Pullman (Police Districts 4, 5, and 6).
- Funded by The Chicago Department of Public Health.

751

Provided **free mental health training to 751** community members living and/or working in Chicago's south side communities



Goals

- Decrease stigmatizing attitudes/beliefs about mental illness.
- Increase mental health literacy (knowledge of signs and symptoms of mental illness).
- Increase requests for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers in crisis situations.
- Increase referrals to professional mental health services.

Approach

- A community advisory group, led by Audrena Spence of Metropolitan Family Services and Joel Johnson of HRDI, communicated regularly to provide strategic guidance, conduct outreach, and host trainings.
- Outreach focused on school staff, faith leaders, community-based organizations, and community members. These groups were selected due to their position within the community as trusted messengers, their presumed higher likelihood of coming into contact with someone experiencing mental health distress, and their ability to intervene before the situation becomes a crisis.
- All trainings were provided by NAMI Chicago and Sertoma Center. Two types of training were provided: Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health Awareness is a 2-hour training that focuses on identifying the signs and symptoms of a mental health issue and how to communicate with someone experiencing a crisis. Mental Health First Aid™ is an eight-hour training that addresses signs and symptoms of a mental health issue and how to react to help someone in a time of crisis.
- All instructors were trained by NAMI Chicago on how to access a CIT trained officer. This allowed all trainers to teach their curricula about mental health and substance use as well as provide information about how to access a CIT trained officer.
- All participants received a resource card with information about how to access services and how to access a CIT trained officer, and a certificate upon completion of the training.

Interim Evaluation Results



Decreased stigma associated with mental health and addiction



Increased comfort in requesting CIT officer



Increased belief that a CIT officer will lead to better outcomes

Next Steps

- Finalize evaluation results to determine impact on stigma and CIT engagement.
- Building momentum on Chicago's south side in 2019 with more mental health trainings.
- Expand the target groups to include employers on Chicago's south side.

Contact

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