



HEALTH EQUITY ZONE (HEZ) PROVIDENCE HEZ – SOUTHSIDE, ELMWOOD, AND WEST END NEIGHBORHOODS

PROVIDENCE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET



This HEZ is a community based effort to promote young children’s social, emotional and academic lives, improve community cohesiveness, and improve distressed and vacant properties, with a special focus on addressing the full spectrum of social and environmental determinants of health.

Health Equity Zones are geographical areas designed to achieve health equity by eliminating health disparities using place-based (where you live) strategies to promote healthy communities. Healthy communities are places where people live, work, play, and learn. These are neighborhoods consisting of social and physical environments that support healthy choices and safe living.

STORY SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE PRESTON



Stephanie Preston

Stephanie Preston is no stranger to South Providence. She has lived there for over 30 years. She even moved back after college to the same street on which she grew up! Stephanie returned to South Providence after graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), determined to give back. She started with youth serving organizations, and was also passionate about affordable housing and educational equity. Working on the Data Work Group within the Community Partnership Table, Stephanie analyzed data collected from Providence residents and advocated for three evidence-based programs: **Incredible Years**, **Positive Action**, and **Maternal/Child Home Visiting**.

“I like impactful work...I like to solve almost impossible problems...I like to sit at tables where people are collectively trying to solve a problem.”
-Stephanie Preston

Stephanie expresses that she is extremely proud of the HEZ partnerships because action is actually happening, not just talk.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Children’s Youth Cabinet (CYC) of Providence received funding to develop a Health Equity Zone in the West End and South Side neighborhoods of Providence. The Providence South Side, Elmwood, and West End HEZ focuses on growing the **Incredible Years Parent Program**.

This program:

- Promotes young children’s social, emotional, and academic lives;
- Organizes community;
- Reduces violence;
- Improves distressed and vacant properties.

The Incredible Years Parent Program is also building a healthy neighborhood ecosystem by:

- Engaging residents;
- Scaling evidence-based interventions;
- Encouraging new norms;
- Addressing the full spectrum of social and environmental determinants of health to improve conditions for all children and their families.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS:



SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM: NEIGHBORS FOR REVITALIZATION (FORMERLY FIXING PROBLEM PROPERTIES)

Abandoned houses are a major neighborhood issue. Not only do they disturb the peace, they directly impact the quality of life for residents living nearby. Starting with one house that concerned many residents, the **Neighbors for Revitalization** encouraged the West Elmwood Housing Development to purchase and remediate the house. Teresa Guaba, Project Coordinator of Providence Children and Youth Cabinet, is extremely proud of the work.



"It's really important to have people from a neighborhood come together to improve their own place of residence. It's the best way to build sustainability and the best way to improve an environment. The residents have a stake because it affects them directly. Bridges being built between systems and people is important, and it is critical to maintain that."

- Teresa Guaba

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CYCPROVIDENCE.ORG



BACKBONE AGENCY

Providence Children and Youth Cabinet

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WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

Providence Children and Youth Cabinet (CYC) already had deep routes within the West End, Elmwood, and South Side neighborhoods of Providence, but when they were awarded the HEZ funding it allowed them to strengthen those relationships even more. Matt Billings, HEZ Coordinator, has been working to ensure they build a system that outlives funding.

"This goes beyond programmatic outcomes, it's really about building those relationships with residents."

-Matt Billings

Matt explained that the most important part of their work is making sure they're working shoulder to shoulder with residents to address the needs of their community.



Matt Billings

Shared public health strategic priorities working with partners statewide.

3/28/2017

- Addressing the social and environmental determinants of health
- Eliminating the disparities of health and promote health equity
- Ensuring access to quality health services including vulnerable populations.

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