

"BEST REFLECTS

POLICY RESEARCH' POSTER

The Sundari Foundation, Inc.'s Research Team
Supported by Emily Arcia, Ph.D., consultant and Paulo Graziano, Ph.D., Florida
International University

The Need for Community-Based Research

Rationale

- Advance Equity and Social Justice
- Ethical
- Pragmatic

Purpose

- Provide critical services tailored to the needs of those served, addressing gender, racial and social inequities
- Continuous improvement
- Inspire positive social change
- Extend scientific knowledge base



The Lotus House as an Exemplary Case

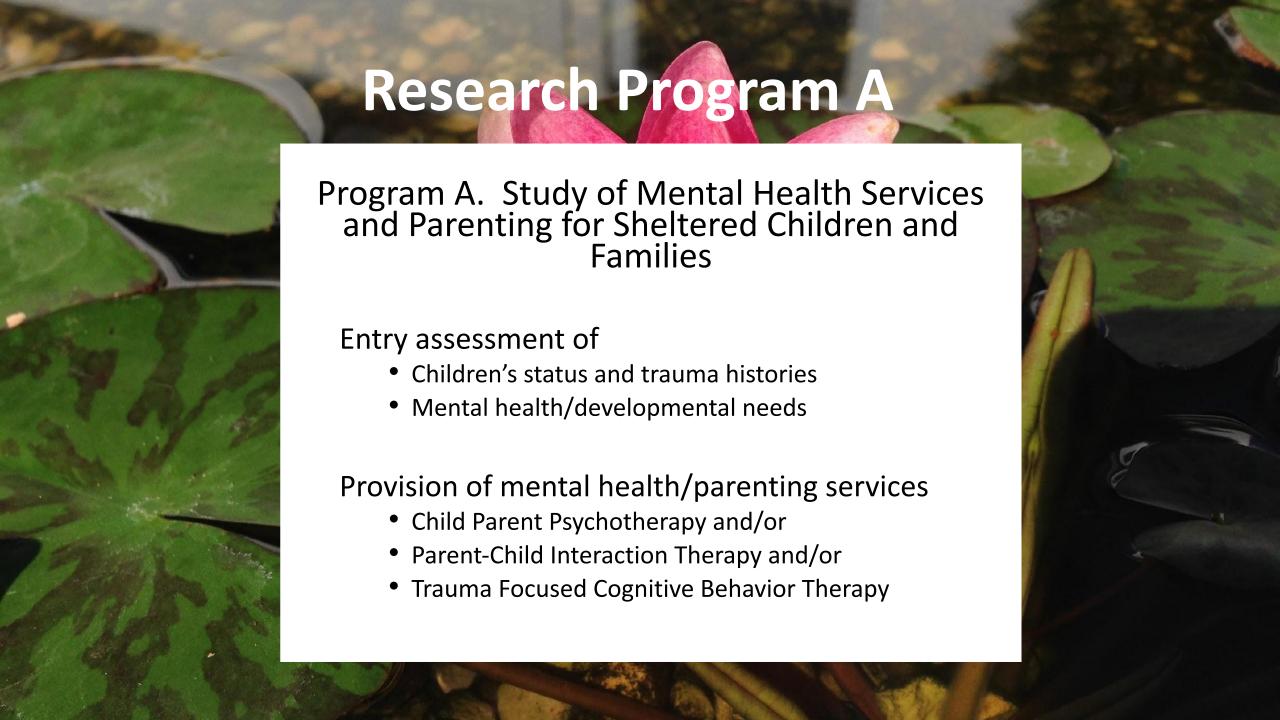
Our Premise

The collaborative research was particularly successful because Lotus House has ownership.

- Was the initiator
- Led the research efforts
- Managed its funds and service delivery
- Kept and controlled its data
- Actively engaged in dissemination

Conceptual Framework for evaluation: Drahota et al. (2016) Community-Academic Partnerships: A Systemic Review of the State of the Literature and Recommendations for Future Research. The Millbank Quarterly, 94,1 (163-214).





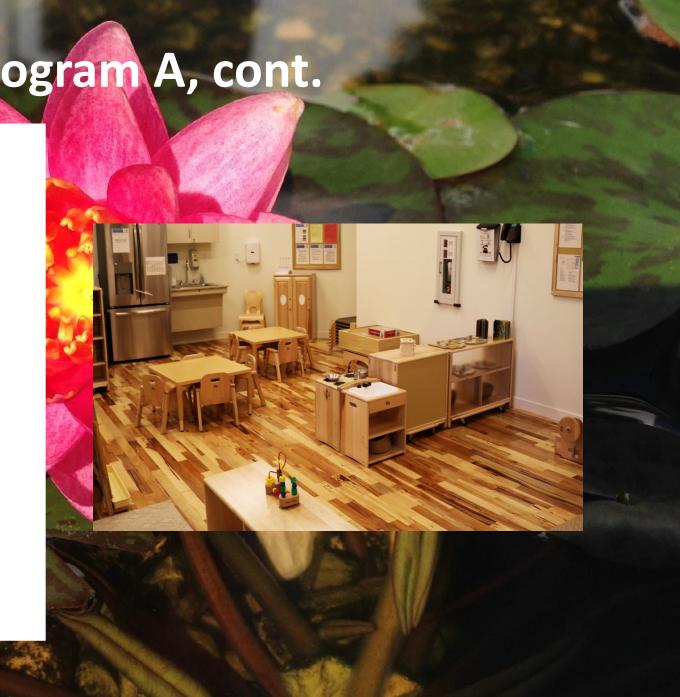


Research Program A, cont.

Study A: Family Outcomes

Statistically significant & clinically meaningful improvements

- Behavior improvement
- Reduced trauma symptoms
- Positive parenting
- Strengthen mother-child relationships





Program B. Study of single women's survival strategies while homeless.

- Focus groups of alumni sheltered women
- Focus on successful organizational principles a culture of care
- Several manuscripts in preparation
 - Lotus House as a "culture of care"
 - Gender specific experiences of single women experiencing homelessness



Reasons for the Success Label, cont.

Institutional Outcomes

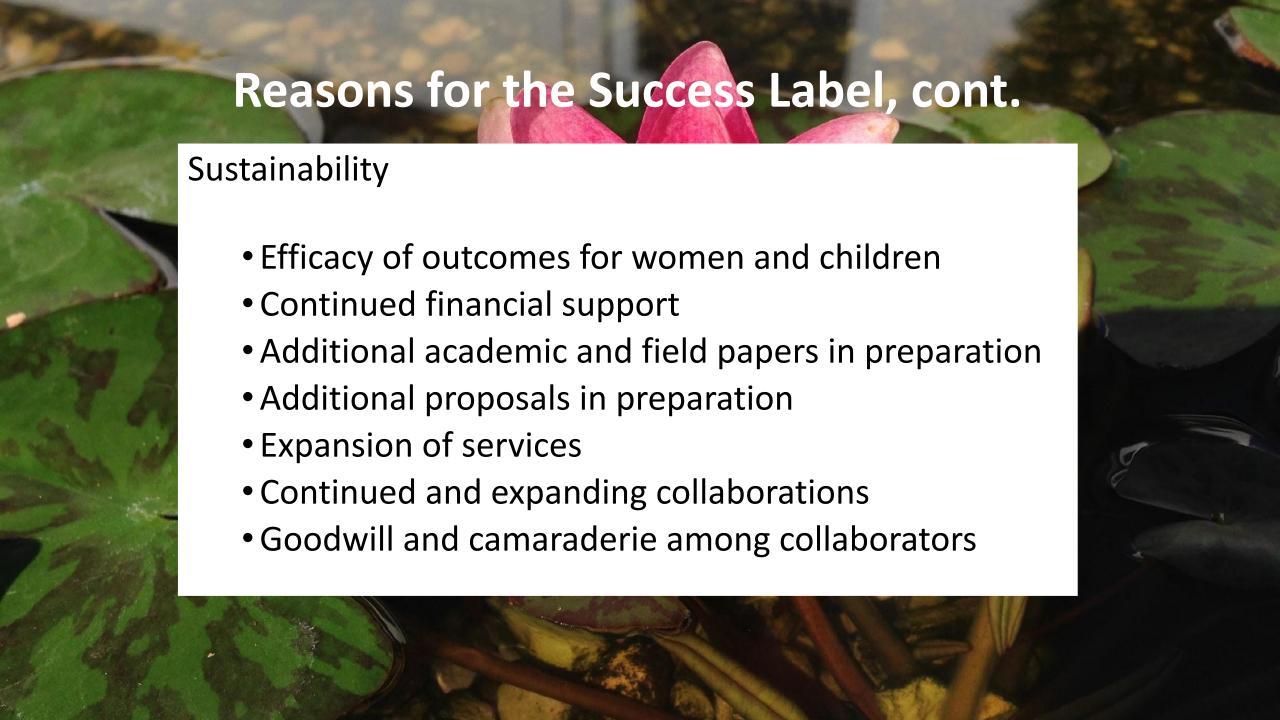
Enriched services and programming

Capacity building on

- Clinical training
- Research methodology
- IRB certification
- Valid interpretation of results
- Data entry & management

Established research, policy and public education department

Created replicable model for community based organizations



Reasons for the Success Label, cont.

Dissemination

Academic publications

- <u>Doblecki-Lewis S, Lester L, Schwartz B, Collins C, Johnson R, Kobetz E</u>. HIV risk and awareness and interest in pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis among sheltered women in Miami. <u>Int J STD AIDS</u>. 2016 Sep;27(10):873-81.
- Pending Graziano P, Spiegel J, Arcia E, and Sundari Foundation, Inc. Early Assessment and Intervention for Families Experiencing Homelessness: A randomized trial comparing two parenting programs. <u>Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology</u>, currently under peer review, 2020.
- Pending Eaton A, Stephens D, Ruvalcaba Y, Banks J, and Sundari Foundation, Inc. A Culture of Care: How Lotus House Women's Shelter heals program participants through genuineness, space, high expectations, dignity, individualized attention, and community. <u>Journal of Community Psychology</u>, currently under peer review, 2020.

LH web-platform publications

- The Farm at Lotus Village, Innovation Program Design, Sundari Foundation, Inc. 2019. www.lotushouse.org
- Lotus Village Children's Wellness Center Innovation Project, Sundari Foundation, Inc. 2017. www.lotushouse.org

Yearly reports to Funder

• Arcia, E (2020) Lotus House Therapeutic Mother-Child Program: Year III Report.



Hindering Factors

- Time
- Financial resources
- Intensive data management
- CBO has competing priorities for operations and services
- Academic research perspective versus community service delivery perspective
 - Empirical and experiential criteria for decision making
 - Differences in professional jargon/semantics





Successful research projects satisfy the goals of the community based organization as lead

- Meet the service needs of the persons to be served
- Document positive outcomes from service driven research and inform continuous improvement
- Address impacts of gender, racial and social inequities
- Extend current knowledge and inspire change on a national level
- Replicable and scalable



This project was made possible by the generous funding of: The Children's Trust of Miami Dade County, Florida; Miami Dade County Homeless Trust; Miami Dade County and Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc.; Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation; Carnival Foundation; Martin Z. Margulies; Angela Whitman and Family Foundation; and our community.

We would like to thank the children and families of Lotus House for their participation and the dedicated team of Lotus House for making this community based, service driven research possible, with special mention to Shana Cox, LCSW, Psy.D., Gabrielle Contreras, LCSW, Stephanie Padro, LMFT, Muriel Ayala, LCSW, Nicole Carnero, LMHC, Nadly Moline, LCSW, Michaelle Sylveus, LMHC, Geneva Comeau, LMHC, Arleny Mirambeau, MSW, Marsha Trujillo, MFT, Ireysis Ramos Garcia, MSW, Franchesca Ali, MSW, LeShea Jenkins, MEd, Noelle Amador, BS, Leanett Reinoso, BA, Melissa Claros-Erazo, BS, Donna MacDonald, MHSc, and Shameequa Buxton, JD.

Access the paper accompanying this Poster Presentation for the Society for Research in Child Development 2021 Virtual Biennial Meeting, April 9, 2021: https://lotushouse.org/childrenfirst/

Learn more at <u>www.lotushouse.org</u> and contact <u>research@lotushouse.org</u>