THROUGH OUR LENS:
A PHOTOVOICE PROJECT WITH TEENS WHO HAVE A PARENT WITH CANCER

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AGENDA

• Overview
• Research summary
• Photovoice
• The project
• Outcomes
• Key Learnings
RESEARCH SUMMARY: PARENTAL CANCER

- Whole family is affected
- May be at risk for (Welch, Wadsworth & Compas, 1996)
  - Internalizing behaviors
    * Anxiety & Depression
  - Externalizing behaviors
    * Aggression
- Family communication key variable that promotes psychosocial functioning (Osborn, 2007)
- Community support has been shown to be effective in support adolescents (Maynard, Patterson, McDonald & Stevens, 2013)
PHOTOVOICE

Three main goals

1. Enable community members to document community strengths & challenges
2. Use photos to promote critical conversations
3. To connect with policymakers

Grounded in:

– Critical pedagogy
– Feminist theory

(Wang & Burris, 1997)
PHOTOVOICE EXAMPLES

• Used in diverse communities & with various issues
  – Juvenile incarceration (Shannon, 2013)
  – Teen health advocacy (Necheles et al., 2007)
  – Social work students (Mulder & Dull, 2014)

• Around the world
  – China – Participatory health promotion (Wang, Yi, Tao & Carovan, 1998)
  – UK – Foster carers (Pickin, Brunsden, & Hill, 2011)
  – Canada – Aboriginal women w/ cancer (Poudrier & Mac-Lean, 2008)
OUR PROJECT: PURPOSE

Purpose: to give teens facing parental cancer a voice

– In their family
– In their community
– In the cancer community
OUR PROJECT: PLANNING

Interprofessional collaboration
• Social Worker
• Teacher
• Outreach worker
• Photographer

• Benefits of Interprofessional collaboration
  – Shared values
  – Clearly identified roles
  – Teamwork
  – Reduced conflict

PROJECT: FUNDING

• Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grant for $5,000
• Included cost for
  – Photographer
  – 12 digital cameras
  – Photo printing
  – Frames
PROJECT: FORMAT & CONTENT

• Met with teens for two-hour sessions for six consecutive weeks.

Week One:

• Introductions to project and each other
• Orientation to cameras
• Introduced new photo technique
• Practiced the technique
• Homework
PROJECT: FORMAT & CONTENT

• Weeks 2 - 6:
  – Teens select 3 images for group discussion
    • Group considers content, story, and technique
  – Introduce new photo technique
  – Practice as a group
PROJECT: FORMAT & CONTENT

Week 7
• Teens select one final photo that best captures their experience with parental cancer
  – Add brief caption that deepens meaning
  – Give and receive feedback from group
• Planned photo exhibit
PROJECT: Show

Exhibit of 12, 17x22 prints
  – Private opening for participating teen artists, and their families
  – Public opening that included Board member and staff as well as VIPs
  – 100+ people attended
ADVOCACY

• Traveling exhibit
• Offices of community partners including
  – corporations
  – oncology and medical clinics
  – hospitals
• Invited legislators to attend show
  – Non attended
EVALUATION

Short answer qualitative survey administered pre- and post-project

– Learned basic principles of photography
– Reduced feeling of isolation
  • Unique yet universal
– Increased support network
EVALUATION

Informal interviews
- Deepened their understanding of their experience
- Much deeper conversations generated over photos
- Increased communication at home

Observation
- Really engaged
- Proud of work
- Powerful response to photos by audience
LESSONS LEARNED

- Value of IPC
- Created collateral material
- Needed an extra week
- Teens responded more favorably then anticipated
FINAL THOUGHTS

Adaptations
– Future photo projects
– In the classroom

Thank you!
Any Questions?