La Linterna: Clinical Model for Trauma-Exposed, Migrant Children

Abstract for Submission

Objective

This manuscript is intended to provide information and analysis on the implementation of a multi-disciplinary clinical model for children and families exposed to trauma in the process of migration to the United States. Beginning in 2019, this initiative provides primary care with subspecialty referral, trauma-informed mental health therapies, immigration legal counsel, and comprehensive case management to immigrant and refugee households throughout the city of Los Angeles. With this manuscript we aim to detail how and why this model was adopted, as well as demonstrate positive health and well being outcomes for our patients and provide scalable components for other clinicians to implement in their own regions.

 Method

This manuscript will review existing literature to argue for the efficacy of the model’s various components, as well as their coordination and co-location within a single clinical setting. It will review the process of implementing a multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed practice to meet the medical, mental health, legal, and social needs of this uniquely vulnerable patient population, and it will outline the possibilities of reproducing this model in other healthcare settings.

Results

Results for this manuscript will demonstrate that strong evidence exists in the medical literature arguing for the implementation of such a model. The manuscript will also describe ‘challenges’ and ‘lessons learned’ during implementation, and it will detail an approach to improving service to this population via an iterative, patient-centered process of participatory research.

Conclusions

This model represents an innovative and effective way to enhance care for one of the most trauma-impacted populations in our society. Implementation of all or some of the program’s components is possible throughout the United States and would mark an improvement over current practice.