

Cultural barriers Latino families encounter in the Hartford Public School System

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Overview

- * Purpose
 - * Research question
- * Literature
- * Data Reviewed
- * Implications
- * Relevance

Purpose

- * The purpose of the research was to gain a better understanding of the cultural barriers that Latino parents face in the Hartford Public School System.
- * Research question: What are the cultural barriers that Latino parents encounter in the Hartford Public School system who have children with ASD and/or other disabilities?

Literature

- * Gap in the literature:
 - * Latino families with ASD diagnosis
 - * Barriers Latino families face in schools



Literature

- * Latino families with ASD diagnosis:
 - * Lack of knowledge/awareness
 - * Mental health stigma
 - * Language barriers/ material and terminology
 - * Access (health care)
 - * Discrimination



Literature

- * Barriers Latino families face in schools:
 - * Lack of knowledge
 - * Lack of “funding”
 - * Systemic barriers (transportation)
 - * Cultural insensitivity/lack of understanding
 - * Un-equitable participation/feeling unheard= interdisciplinary???
 - * Language barrier (documents not translated)
 - * Lack of trust*

Data

- * Looked at data from Spanish speaking families
- * Some received services but others felt they didn't receive enough
- * Common themes:
 - * ASD diagnosis was hard to accept
 - * Difficulty with IEP (what it was, what it meant, etc.)
 - * Professionals didn't inform them of services
 - * Weren't included in decisions of IEP

Implications

- * There's a lot of work to do!
- * Research needs to be done on this topic in order to inform training for service providers (social workers, speech and language, administrators, teachers etc.) to incorporate more cultural sensitivity in the PPT meetings and other interactions with the Latino families.



Relevance as a Social Worker

- * NASW Code of Ethics:
 - * Service
 - * Social justice
 - * Dignity and worth of the person
 - * Human relationships
 - * Integrity
 - * Competence



Policy? Enforcement?

- * Policy makers should consider monitoring and holding schools accountable for discrimination toward Latino Families.

References

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