Making Connections Community Theory of Change
Comprehensive Upstream Strategies

PILLARS OF WELLBEING:
Hope/Aspiration, Dignity, Trust, Connectedness/Belonging, Safety, Control of Destiny

STRATEGIES

Creating space for being/doing/connecting

Creating networks for gendered and cultural approaches

Building capacity to help self and others

Supporting civic/community action to enhance wellbeing

Facilitating advocacy for changes in policy, practice, and/or systems

Amplifying narratives of healing and hopefulness
Making Connections National Theory of Change
Making Connections: Evaluation

- University of South Florida College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
  - Concept Mapping
  - Mental Wellbeing Measure Index

- Local Site Evaluations

- Community of Practice
Evaluation Questions

How do communities create successful and scalable community change?

What are some essential elements in improving wellbeing for men and boys?

How do grantee’s build community resilience?

What factors influence community engagement?

IMPACT
Analysis identifies 8 concepts as foundational to the mental wellbeing of men and boys in the Making Connections Initiative:

- Dignity and Respect
- Safety
- Institutional Relationships
- Role of Community
- Community Connections
- Social Connection
- Positive Self-Worth
- Positive Masculinity

Healthy, trusting, respectful personal relationships and relationships to their external social environment are foundational to the mental wellbeing.
Community-Driven Evaluation

Approach: Community-Based Participatory Research

Involves and centers our communities of focus in all aspects of evaluation: development, design, implementation, analysis and interpretation of data, and how data is stored.

Evaluation Measurement Tools:

Social Network Analysis – PARTNER tool (University of Colorado, Denver)
○ 18 questions about relationships between current 253MCI partners
○ Identifies areas for strengthening relationships and more equitable distribution of power and resources.

Measuring progress
○ Quarterly report forms allow partners to easily report on deliverables.

Community Resiliency Survey
○ One page survey measures civic engagement and protective factors.
○ Field tested by organizers in our communities of focus.

(...Removed words such as citizen, translated to Spanish).
The path forward is comprehensive community prevention

**REFRAMING** mental health to reflect that it is more than the absence of mental illness

**REALIGNING** and expanding strategies to emphasize prevention and resilience alongside treatment and services

**REPLACING** one approach fits all model and applying a cultural and gendered lens

**RECALIBRATING** approaches to improve community conditions that influence mental health and wellbeing

**Improved community mental health and wellbeing**

- Reduce stigma, trauma, and adverse childhood experiences
- Strengthen healthy social norms and promote community connection and networks
- Promote resilience and community healing
- Support long term recovery and community supports
- Reduce severity of mental health conditions and costs of human suffering

Read the full report on our site: PREVENTION INSTITUTE
Poll #3

What would help you apply these approaches and lessons in your community, in addition to designated funding?

Please select all that apply.
Making Connections *that will last* ...

When you start with needs, you get programs. When you start with strengths, you get possibilities.

- Lupe Serrano
  casa de esperanza