First 1,000 Days Sarasota

Background
In 2018, the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation spearheaded First 1,000 Days Sarasota County with Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) and a diverse group of community partners. Since then, the initiative has grown to include over 70 community organizations and programs collaborating to ensure all newborns can thrive and children can meet their full potential. Over the last year, First 1,000 Days Sarasota has launched a parent portal website with key resources, and a county-wide care coordination platform to improve care coordination and service delivery.

The First 1,000 Days Sarasota has used the Collective Impact model as the framework for the initiative, with SMH being designated as the backbone organization. As the backbone organization, SMH is committed to community advocacy and provide ongoing strategic guidance and serve as the hub for the centralized referral platform. SMH also hired a Program Coordinator that facilitates community meetings, leads the program evaluation, guides the strategic planning process, and identifies system barriers in the community.

First 1,000 Days staff works with two committees that help drive its activities:

- First 1,000 Days has a multi-sector Steering Committee that provides collaboration, direction, and strategic guidance for the initiative.
- First 1,000 Days’ Parent Advisory Committee is comprised of clients from partner organizations. The committee meets routinely to discuss aspirations for their children, their family, and their community. They also inform the development and implementation of community programs and promotion of First 1,000 Days Sarasota efforts.

First 1,000 Days Sarasota County envisions “a safe, healthy, caring and culturally sensitive community that supports families and helps newborns thrive and children to achieve their potential.”

Network Partners in the Integrator Learning Lab
- First 1,000 Days Sarasota works with 70 partner organizations/programs from a range of sectors, including *Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and *Florida Department of Health. For a full list of network partners, please click here.

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Near-Term, Lab-Related Goals

- Develop a strategic plan for First 1,000 Days Sarasota, incorporating use of an equity impact assessment tool for strategies under consideration
- Complete a value analysis as part of an effort to move past initial funding/investment
- Expand First 1,000 Days steering committee to include community voice in decision-making
- Develop a First 1,000 Days Parent Advisory Committee

Achievements Supported by Technical Assistance from the Learning Lab

- Draft strategic plan completed using guidance from Integrator Learning Lab TA (including creation of a value sequence and value proposition) to identify and pursue funding/partnering opportunities
- Development of a Steering Committee (from advisors to champions) to guide further development and implementation of the First 1,000 Days strategic plan
- Drafted network communications document to emphasize value for current and potential stakeholders
- Recruited a diverse group of parents (14 so far) to participate in steering committee, community workgroups, and other decision-making spaces
- Developed template for plan of safe care for Sarasota County
- Presentation to First 1,000 Days Florida and statewide Plan of Safe Care Taskforce

Integrative Areas of Future Focus

Though the 2020 Integrator Learning Lab has drawn to a close, First 1,000 Days Sarasota will continue to be deliberate and strategic about deploying integrative activities in support of the goals of the network. This will include a focus on breaking down data silos to help multi-sector partners understand how their collective efforts are impacting youth and families, with such actions as:

- Using UNITE Us to ensure that First 1,000 Days partners can more seamlessly share data to see the impact of their collective efforts on Sarasota youth and families and identify gaps in services where resources need to be allocated
- Expanding services to Sarasota children and families by creating more peer support roles such as community health workers and/or parent advocates
- Using a quality improvement program evaluation process to measure impact of the initiative on the community
- Implementing the countywide Plan of Safe Care to improve the health and safety of substance exposed newborns and their families