

Project EMPOWER

An Interdisciplinary Project

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Project Location



Kentucky

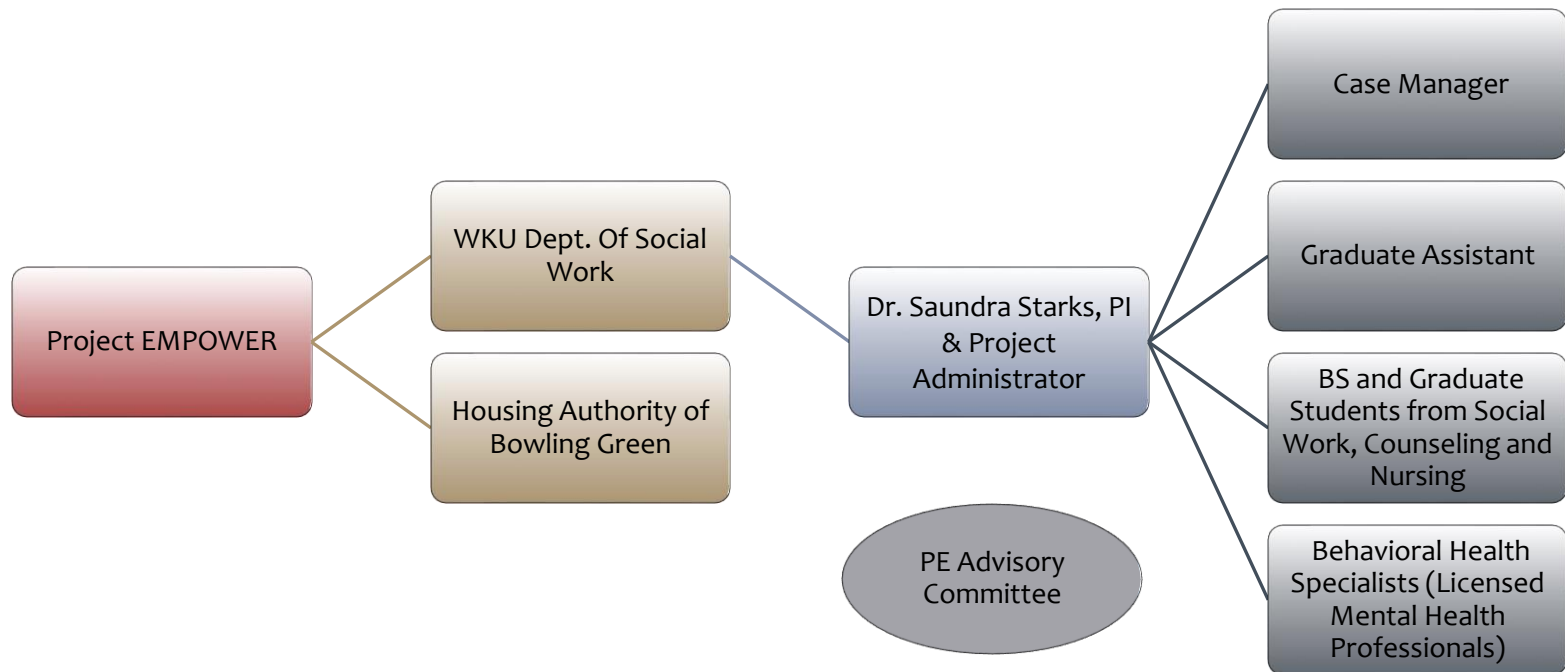


Project EMPOWER

- * Meaning of the Project Acronym
 - * Enhance
 - * Motivate
 - * Prosper
 - * Overcome
 - * Work
 - * Energy
 - * Respect



Organizational Structure



Agencies Served



Project Funding and Resources

- * \$200,000 Grant from The Jessie Ball duPont Foundation
- * In-kind Services from The Department of Social Work at Western Kentucky University
- * In-kind Services from The Housing Authority of Bowling Green
- * Volunteers & Student Interns
- * Small Internal and External Grants

Services Offered

- * Mental health and case management services for uninsured and underinsured individuals and families
- * Evaluation of mental health issues & Development of psycho-social skills
- * Types of mental health counseling offered to clients:
 - * Individual and family counseling
 - * Group counseling
 - * Intensive case management
- * With the overall goal of assisting in the development of healthy contributing members of society.

Project Procedures

- * Recruitment
- * Screening and Referrals
- * Participant Orientation
- * Intake for demographics & consent forms
- * Intake interviews for assessments
 - * Psycho-social evaluations/Screening evaluations/ Inventories
- * Interventions (Individual, Family & Group)
- * Evaluations/ Exit Interviews

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- * WKU Departments Involved

- * Social Work
- * Nursing
- * Counseling

- * Faculty and graduate/undergraduate students from all three departments were involved in providing services to clients
- * Faculty from Social Work and Nursing served as members of the Project EMPOWER Advisory Board

Challenges for Project EMPOWER

- * Funding
- * Language and cultural Barriers
- * Stigma of mental illness in community
- * Finding adequate space to conduct assessments and therapy
- * Time constraints for faculty and student interns



Benefits for Clients

- * Access to qualified licensed mental health providers in an underserved area
- * Assessments and clinical services provided at no cost
- * Expanded mental health services in the community for refugees and victims of domestic violence
- * Health and wellness education & training for underserved populations

Benefits for Faculty and Students

* Faculty

- * Interdisciplinary partnerships were formed for future projects
- * Ability to use clinical skills to assist clients and gain hours for maintaining certifications
- * Opportunities for research and publication of findings

* Students-Graduate & Undergraduate

- * Ability to practice new skills under the direction of experienced and licensed clinicians
- * Participation in interdisciplinary case review and supervision

Benefits for WKU & Bowling Green Community

* WKU

- * Interdisciplinary collaboration on scholarship and service
- * Training site for undergraduate and graduate students from three practice disciplines

* Community

- * Referral source for mental health services for underserved populations
- * Strengthened bonds with practice disciplines at the university

The Future

- * iSTAR- Interdisciplinary Service, Training, Advocacy and Research
- * This project will focus on interdisciplinary training of providers in mental health disciplines and provision of services to vulnerable populations
- * Small Grant obtained from The ALIVE Center to work with Paraprofessionals at the HABG and International Center of Kentucky