Improving Developmental Services and Preventive Pediatric Care

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Act Early Region VI Summit
Albuquerque, NM
March 13-14, 2008
The Commonwealth Fund Program Goal

To assure that appropriate developmental and preventive child health services are available to all families, especially those with young children and low income

1. Structured Screening for Developmental Risks and Problems
2. Referral and Care Coordination
3. Parenting Education
“Medical care is the universal starting gate for all children, rich and poor.”

-- Margaret Mahoney
Health Care System

Other Community Services

Screening → Assessment → Intervention
Generalist Faculty Self-Assessment of Preparation to Teach DBP

Commonwealth Fund Survey of Ambulatory Pediatric Association Members, 2004
Developmental Screening Methods Used Always or Almost Always

- Any Screening: 96%
- Hx & PE: 71%
- Checklist: Staff: 37%
- Checklist: Parent: 15%
- Std. Instrument: 23%

No Follow-up Care for Many Children At-Risk for Developmental, Behavioral or Social Delays

Follow-Up Care NOT Provided to a Child at Significant Risk

Follow-Up Care Provided to a Child at Significant Risk

45%

55%

Source: 2004 CAHMI PHDS-PLUS Data, OHIO Medicaid Beneficiaries, Weighted Data (Raw N=2480 Weighted N=300133)
Ages of Children with Developmental Delays for Events Related to Early Intervention Services

1st Concern | Diagnosis or Identification | El Referral | IFSP

Child’s Age (months)

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Final Report of the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study, January 2007
Barriers to Developmental Assessment of Children 0-3

- Insufficient Time: 80%
- Unable to Unbundle from WCC: 56%
- Inadequate Reimbursement: 55%
- Lack of non-MD Staff: 51%
- Unfamiliar with Codes: 46%
- Lack of DX and Rx Services: 34%
- Lack of Training: 28%
- Unfamiliar with Instruments: 24%
- Referral Resources: 19%

AAP, Periodic Survey of Fellows No.45, 2000
Strategies to Guide, Motivate and Facilitate Change

1. Promote adoption of quality standards and quality measurement

2. Identify and promote the adoption of effective practices, models and tools

3. Promote policy change and facilitate adequate reimbursement
Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD)

Goals

• Improve state policy on developmental services

• Improve quality of clinical provision of developmental services
Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD)

Progress to Date:

• Changed Medicaid, mental health, and early intervention (EI) policies
  – Improved reimbursement

• Changed provider manuals, websites, contracts, claims and eligibility processing
  – Increased use of developmental screening tools

• Created enduring public-private partnerships

• Measuring progress
ABCD: Lessons Learned

- Medicaid programs play a critical leading role in quality improvement for child preventive care.
- Partnerships within government and with private sector health care providers are essential.
- Clarifying and applying policy and leveraging existing resources may make legislative and financing changes unnecessary.
- Standardize developmental services: instruments, schedule and billing.
- Identification of and access to follow-up services must be incorporated into programs.
Problems with referral, consultation and linkage

- Referral not made
- Wrong referral made
- Delay in making referral
- Delay in completing referral
- Referral appointment not kept
- Feedback not given or received
- Consultative information not integrated into care
- Parent doesn’t desire or understand referral
- Referral not done in the context of established relationships among community services providers
## Linkage Typology: Key Strategies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice-Level Systems Change</th>
<th>Community Partnerships</th>
<th>Community-Systems Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Point person for referral/linkage &amp; follow-up</td>
<td>5. Co-management</td>
<td>8. System-wide training &amp; support</td>
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</tbody>
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Changing Outcomes Requires Changing Systems

“Every system is perfectly constructed to produce the results it achieves.”

Peter Senge, The Fifth Discipline, 1990

“Trying harder will not work. Changing systems of care will.”

Crossing the Quality Chasm, IOM 2001
Resources

www.commonwealthfund.org
  – Pediatric Developmental Screening: Understanding and Selecting Screening Instruments (Dennis Drotar, PhD)
  – Developmental Screening in Primary Care: The Effectiveness of Current Practice and Recommendations for Improvement (Laura Sices, MD)
  – Linking Families Statewide with Community Resources: A Manual Based on Connecticut’s Help Me Grow Program (Paul Dworkin, MD)
  – Beyond Referral: Pediatric Care Linkages to Improve Developmental Health (Amy Fine & Rochelle Mayer)

www.abcdresources.org/index.html
  – Assuring Better Child Health and Development: Resource Center

www.dbpeds.org