

## **The ABCD Screening Academy: Improving Child Developmental Services in Maryland**

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## **Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Initiative**

- Supported by Commonwealth Fund and administered by National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)
- Initiative goal: strengthen states' capacity to deliver care that supports young children's healthy development
  - By identifying and implementing policy and systems changes that support the provision of preventive and early intervention care by Medicaid providers

## **State-based ABCD-related Projects**

- Since 2000, ABCD Initiative has helped 8 states create models of service delivery and financing to improve early child development services
  - *ABCD I Consortium*: Improve delivery of services that support general development
  - *ABCD II Consortium*: Improve delivery of services that support social/emotional development
  - *Setting the Stage for Success*: Designed to spread North Carolina's model for implementing general developmental screening in primary care practices

## **ABCD Screening Academy**

- Next phase of the ABCD Initiative
- Based on lessons learned from previous projects
- Technical assistance to 20 states to implement policy and practice changes needed for widespread adoption of effective developmental surveillance and screening as part of standard well-child care

## **Why Focus on Developmental Screening in Primary Care?**

- 12-17% of U.S. children have a developmental or behavioral disorder
- Pediatric primary care providers uniquely suited for the detection of young children with developmental delays
  - Trained in child development
  - Have frequent, ongoing contact with infants and young children before school age

## **Why Focus on Developmental Screening in Primary Care?**

- Early identification of developmental disorders affords opportunity for the best health and developmental outcomes
  - Initiation of specific early childhood therapeutic interventions during period critical for brain development
  - Diagnosis of associated medical conditions with specific medical treatment when appropriate



## ABCD Screening Academy

- Project Partners:
  - Maryland Medicaid/EPSTD
  - Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
  - Maryland Title V CSHCN Program (Office for Genetics and CSHCN)
- Project Timeline:
  - April 2007 – June 2008

## ABCD Screening Academy Goals

- Outcomes
  - Improving state policy
  - Initiating a state-wide spread strategy
- Process
  - Creating and building public/private partnerships
  - Measuring results

## Building Public/Private Partnerships

### Developmental Screening Advisory Group

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ■ Medicaid/EPSTD                       | ■ Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program |
| ■ Medicaid MCOs                        | ■ Mental Hygiene Administration         |
| ■ Maryland Title V CSHCN               | ■ Other early childhood professionals   |
| ■ Private insurers (BCBS)              | ■ Parents                               |
| ■ Maryland AAP                         | ■ Advocacy organizations                |
| ■ Maryland AAFP                        |   |
| ■ NAPNAP                               |   |
| ■ Community pediatricians              |   |
| ■ Subspecialists/tertiary care centers |   |

## Improving State Policy

- Developed comprehensive list of needed improvements in Maryland
- Selected initial improvements to implement
  - Update the Maryland Healthy Kids (EPSTD) provider manual and periodicity schedule to reflect recommendations of the 2006 AAP policy statement on developmental screening
  - Develop a list of approved screening tools for the Maryland Healthy Kids Program
  - Develop a written referral form to facilitate improved communication and information-sharing between providers and Maryland Infants and Toddlers

## Improving State Policy

- Develop and begin decision-making process for other potential improvements
  - *Requirement* for use of standardized screening tools in Maryland EPSTD program
  - Reimbursement (CPT 96110)
  - Regulations change
  - MCO performance improvement/monitoring

## Initiating Statewide Spread

- Supporting 3 pilot practice sites to implement standardized developmental screening tools
- Planning structure for broader pediatric primary care provider training in state
- EPSTD nurses discussing recommendations for developmental screening at provider site visits
- Exploring feasibility of using MCO provider relations staff to detail practices

## Measuring Results

- Measured baseline and mid-project screening rates in pilot practices (chart review)
  - Baseline: 0% children screened in all practices
  - Mid-project screening rates:
    - 60%: large hospital-based FQHC with residents
    - 82%: solo practitioner
- End of project screening rates to be measured in June 2008
- Data will also be collected on referrals for children who screened positive during pilot

## After ABCD in Maryland

- Requirement for use of standardized developmental screening tools in Maryland EPSDT program
- Mechanism to support pediatric primary care providers to implement standardized screening
- Adequate reimbursement for screening by all insurers
- Appropriate referral and follow-up of children determined at-risk through screening
- State capacity to provide early childhood therapeutic intervention as well as needed medical and developmental diagnostic evaluations

## Additional Resources/Information

- ABCD Resource Center
  - [www.abcdresources.org](http://www.abcdresources.org)
- CDC - National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)
  - [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd)
- AAP National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for CSHCN
  - [www.medicalhomeinfo.org](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org)