

Universal Developmental Screening Partnership E-Update

Vision: Universal developmental screening and linkages to appropriate services will be available for all young children in Washington State

New Grant Connects Teens with Help Me Grow

The Department of Health's Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and Families (EPTWFF) grant is partnering with Help Me Grow Washington (HMG) to deliver an evidence-based program. Together these programs will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and developmental screening services with connections to local resources and state benefit programs targeting teen parents. The grant will focus on four counties with the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the state: Adams, Grant, Franklin, and Yakima, and will include an emphasis on local Hispanic populations. The goals are to increase the teen parent's educational achievements; reduce successive pregnancies during the teen years; enhance child development, parenting, and relationship skills; and promote health literacy. HMG will provide free developmental screenings, age-specific activities, and connect teen parents to local resources and state benefit programs.

This work aligns well with the Graduation, Reality and Dual-role Skills (GRADS) program for pregnant teens and/or young parents which offers on-site child care and focuses on work and family foundation skills. There are 23 school districts in Washington that offer the GRADS program.

For more information: <http://www.withinreachwa.org/>



Help Me Grow Washington

Kelly Smith is the new Help Me Grow Program Manager at WithinReach. Previously with Building Changes and the YMCA, Kelly has been working to build strong families in Washington State for nearly a decade. She brings strong experience, keen interest, and great energy to Help Me Grow and we join Within Reach in congratulating Kelly on her new position!

Great MINDS Medical Pilot

A new pilot project of the Great Medical Homes Include Developmental Screening (MINDS) and WithinReach kicks off in March. The design of this project will increase developmental screenings and referrals, plus strengthen the connection between WithinReach, primary care providers, families, and patient connection to services. The clinic will screen young children and refer patients directly to WithinReach. WithinReach will connect families to resources and report the results back to the clinic.

Screening in Child Care

This pilot project is a collaboration of South Central Infant Toddler Consultation, Central Washington Developmental Screening Workgroup, and Project LAUNCH. The goal of this partnership is to implement developmental screenings in child care settings serving "high-risk" populations in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. The project is divided into five distinct phases covering training with child care directors; parent education; and coordination with medical homes, referrals, and community resources. The project is supported by a coordination team consisting of a Behavioral Health Consultant, Public Health Registered Nurse, and a Technical Assistance Specialist who is a trusted messenger.

A tool kit for child care providers is currently in development. The tool kit will include the Ages and Stages Questionnaire kit, marketing materials for providers and parents, educational materials, activity book, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Milestone Moments Booklet, a resource guide and worksheet. This pilot is a great example of the process of partnering at the local level and implementing universal developmental screening in child care settings.



Federal Agencies Team Up to Send Leadership Message on Early Screening



Early screening is a priority for several federal agencies—the U. S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, and including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Center for Medicaid Services, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services. These agencies are teaming up to encourage and provide guidance on developmental and behavioral screening and follow-up. The first step is a public outreach campaign to promote developmental and behavioral screening and follow-up. Included in this campaign is a set of valid and reliable screening tools, and a companion guide for a variety

of providers to understand their role and to help pick the right tool to use for their population. The group will also work with partners to identify a comprehensive developmental and behavioral screening tool for free use (public domain). The plan is to test this tool with a variety of diverse populations and settings including children in child care or Head Start, foster care, or home visiting programs and children who are American Indian or English language learners. Agencies will also work with a range of intervention and prevention strategies to support children and families with developmental concerns who are not eligible for Early

Intervention, do not have access to adequate or appropriate services, or are “waiting in line” to be evaluated or receive appropriate services. For more information:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/developmental-and-behavioral-screening-initiative>

Contact Information:

Rebecca Timmen
DOH Project
LAUNCH/Early Childhood
Comprehensive Systems
Coordinator
Rebecca.Timmen@
doh.wa.gov

Carol Miller
DOH Mental
Health/Universal
Developmental Screening
Carol.Miller@doh.wa.gov

Recent statistics state that as many as 1 in 6 children have a developmental delay or disability in the United States, such as speech and language delay, autism spectrum disorder, or cerebral palsy. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011)

Developmental Screening Hits a Milestone in Our State

As of January 1, 2014 the Washington Medicaid program will reimburse primary care providers for screening. The January 2014 Washington State Health Care Authority Medicaid Provider revised billing instruction guide, added developmental screening to coverage guidelines (CPT code 96110 and 96111). This supports timely access to a formal diagnostic evaluation and referral for autism and applied behavioral analysis (ABA) treatment. At this time it is limited to clients 36 months of age or younger who are suspected of having autism. The screening must be performed by primary care providers such as a physician, ARNP, or Physician Assistant. Providers must bill for developmental screening (with interpretation and written report) using a validated screening tool or instrument. For additional details, see

http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/billing/documents/physicianguides/physician-related_services_mpg.pdf

Lincoln County Public Health Taps into Statewide Efforts

Lincoln County has a population of about 10,000 people. In this very rural and sparsely populated area, the Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) is partnering with the WIC (Women, Infants, Children Nutrition) Program and WithinReach to help create a system in their area for developmental screening and referral. Using flyers from [Help Me Grow Washington](#) (HMG) and adding their local health information, WIC screeners pass along the [HMG flyer](#) that connects parents to the [ParentHelp123](#) website. At the site, parents will learn about developmental screening and have access to the Ages and Stages Questionnaire tool online. If the screen is used and the score indicates the need for referral, a warm handoff is made from WithinReach back to the staff at LCHD, who calls and talks to the parent. These flyers are also provided to county preschools and family doctors as there are no pediatricians in Lincoln County.

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).