

Help Me Grow WA Partnership

Unified initiative for Universal Developmental Screening

E-Update | Summer 2015

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Partnership Vision

All families have equitable access to developmental screenings supported by services that respond to each child's needs as they learn, grow and achieve their full potential.

New Look, Same Partnership, Same E-Update!

We are sporting a new look to the UDS Partnership e-update to go along with our new name, "Help Me Grow Washington Partnership." Using Constant Contact for our e-update will streamline our distribution list and relieve some of the manual work of our previous communication tool. We have always received a lot of positive feedback about the e-update, and we hope that this continues to work for you. Please let Sherry or Carol know if there are any problems with this new e-update system or format. And, as always, let us know of news in your area that we can share via the e-update.

From Rebecca...

"It is with mixed emotions that I bid you all farewell. By the time this e-update reaches you, I will have begun a new position as the Health Specialist with ICF for Region X Head Start. Since the beginning of

the UDS Partnership in December 2009, and now as the Help Me Grow Washington Partnership, we have made significant progress across the state. I am proud of our accomplishments, continually inspired by the commitment of all the partners, and personally sad that I will no longer be working side by side with you towards our shared vision for all children in Washington. The Help Me Grow WA Partnership is in good hands with the collective impact leadership through the Focus & Momentum Team and the Action Teams, and with the continued backbone support from the Department of Health. And, the Department of Health continues to lead the work towards a shared data system.

It will be another busy year ahead for the Partnership with activities occurring in several communities, as well as statewide with the implementation of two key decisions:

- 1) Medicaid reimbursement for primary care providers.*
- 2) Training available for Early Achievers providers (identified as a goal in the Early Learning Plan priority strategies for 2015-2016).*

Both of these will enhance our system building efforts by raising awareness of universal developmental screening and connection to services, and increasing the need for aligned training of professionals, common messaging for families, and coordinated services. Exciting times! It has truly been my pleasure to have worked with you all on this, "ambitious but achievable," goal, to quote our Strategic Framework. I wish you continued success and look forward to tracking the Partnership's progress. To connect with any of the team leaders, Carol Dean or Sherry Trout, see their contact information listed in this e-update. Thank you all for the meaningful experience of working with you in this important mission". **Rebecca Timmen**

DOH Staff Changes

Many of you on the Action Teams have appreciated the helpful support of Stephanie Dunkel over the past several months. She has moved on to a wonderful opportunity with Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. We wish her well!

We are happy to announce that Sherry Trout is back at DOH working on this developmental screening project. Many of you will remember Sherry from previous work wrapping up our first LAUNCH grant and then the last year of the Great MINDS grant. Please welcome her and notice her contact information at the end of this update.

Teams Are in Motion!

We welcome Julie Kientz of the University of Washington as our new Co-Chair of the Focus and Momentum Team and Crystal Tetrick as our new lead for the Strengthening Systems and Connections Action Team. Partners from health, early learning and community services have formed teams and welcome additional partners to help move the work forward. Team work plans include several objectives and strategies that continue to evolve. Current focus of activity is described below. Each of the Action Team chairs work together to communicate and coordinate actions with The Focus & Momentum Team. Action Teams meet monthly and all teams have teleconferencing options. If you are interested in joining, please contact the appropriate individual below.

Reaching All Children and Families is working on consistent, high quality statewide training for providers and increasing accessibility of screening tools. We want to thank Roxanne Garzon for her

year of great work. We are currently looking for Co-Chairs for this Action Team. Interested? Email For more information or to help others learn about our work, [visit our new website!](#)
www.helpmegrowwa.org

Providing Responsive Supports and Services is strengthening the network of services that respond to the needs of children and families, connecting the family to what their child needs after the screening. Chair: [Liz Jaquette](#) Meet: 4th Tuesday of the month 10:00 am-12:00 pm. For more information or to help others learn about our work, [visit our new website!](#) www.helpmegrowwa.org

Strengthening Systems is identifying systems at the state and local levels. Investigating how a statewide data system could more efficiently enhance connections so that children and families receive the screening, referrals and support they need.

Crystal Tetrick of Seattle-King county has agreed to CoChair this team. She is looking for a partner to co-chair for this team. Interested? Email [Garrison Kurtz](#). The team continues to meet according to its regular schedule: 4th Friday of the month 9:00-11:00 am. For more information or to help others learn about our work, [visit our new website!](#) www.helpmegrowwa.org

Improving Policy and Funding is monitoring legislative action regarding (1) Reimbursement for primary care providers for developmental and autism screening and (2) Expanding funding support for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (early intervention). Co-chairs: [Lisa Ibanez](#) and [Carrie Glover](#) Meet: 3rd Wednesday of the month 10:00 am-12:00 pm. For more information or to help others learn about our work, [visit our new website!](#) www.helpmegrowwa.org

Perspective of Professional and "Parent" on ASQ

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire Screener (ASQ) tool is helpful for all parents, of every profession. Some parents think that because of their profession (pediatrician, Family Resource Coordinator, etc.) they should understand their child's skills. Parents who work in early childhood settings can still use the ASQ as a helpful tool. Parents can't accurately compare their child to the kids they see at work, because their work setting may not be a representative sample.

"I have other children and I see kids as part of my job. Still it was hard to know if my child was developing in a unique (but healthy) way, or if he was struggling to learn new skills. The ASQ gave me a clear picture of my two year old's growth. I learned he was right on track in most areas, but that his fine motor skills could use some extra practice. We got activity ideas to incorporate into daily life, like bath time and dinner time. Another ASQ in two months will show us how he is doing!" --
WithinReach client, pediatrician

Partners Educating the Public on Importance of Developmental Screening

- KBTC Public Television Features Dr. Mary Ann Woodruff, Reach Out and Read Washington State's Medical Director doctor Jill Sells, as an [American Graduate Champion](#).
- The Spokane Regional Health District [Spokane Health District and Universal Developmental Screening Project](#)

Data Group Looks to Local Interviews for Answers

The Help Me Grow Partnership's data group is working hard to advocate for a system to support UDS. That data system would address problems with currently isolated bits of information and UDS-related activities taking place across agencies and stakeholder groups statewide. It would serve as a central location for child-level screening information, allowing stakeholders to contribute and/or access developmental screening data for children. The data system could facilitate increased coordination between agencies and stakeholders involved in screening, referrals and provision of services to children. It could help reduce the number of children who are not screened and do not receive services. It could also facilitate state and program level reporting since it would be a population-based source of UDS data.

The data group conducted key informant interviews with parents and professionals who screen and utilize screening data. They selected Snohomish, Whatcom and Yakima counties to represent urban and rural, eastern and western Washington, and varying degrees of implementation of county-wide developmental screening system. Themes covered included screening tools used, reimbursement, documentation, referral facilitation and data sharing, and thoughts about a UDS data system.

For more information contact Roxie Zarate at roxie.zarate@doh.wa.gov

Improving Payment for Developmental Screening

Washington State recently passed, signed and funded the Bright Futures bill for children (SB 5317). The start date for implementation is January 1, 2016. The bill requires universal screening and provider payment for autism and developmental delays for children in Medicaid programs. This matches the standard of care required of private insurance for children. The bill sites the American Academy of Pediatrics comprehensive guidelines for provision of health services to infants, children, and adolescents. Our partner, Health Care Authority will be implementing the bill. One of the tasks for the Help Me Grow Improving Policy & Funding team will be to determine how we can help support the implementation of the bill.

For more information, please contact Improving Policy & Funding co-chair, Carrie Glover of WithinReach at carrieg@withinreachwa.org with questions.

Strong connection between HMG Partnership & Essentials for Childhood

Essentials for Childhood (EfC) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supported effort working toward the vision, All children in Washington State thrive in safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments. We know that all children need healthy and supportive relationships and environments to help them learn and grow. There are proven and promising ways to enhance

those relationships. Promoting the natural strengths and resilience of children, families, and communities can prevent and limit the impact of maltreatment.

Like our Help Me Grow Partnership work, EfC is a collective impact effort. Partners from multiple sectors are working toward a common agenda that sets the course for the work. Universal Developmental Screening is one of the eleven EfC shared measures. At present time, the Agency is looking at alignment and crossover of our UDS project and EfC.

For more information about Essentials for Childhood in Washington, see the Department of Health [EfC webpage](#). Contact Marilyn Gisser at 360-236-3503.

Help Me Grow Washington Child Development Videos-Tools for Learning

WithinReach has produced several videos that provide a nice overview of screening. They incorporate a rationale, they have different parents doing the ASQ with their children, and they ask parents to share why they like the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. ["Your child's first 5 years of life are important!"](#)

Yakima Developmental Screening Referral Data: Seeing Change

The Help Me Grow Partnership has been talking about collecting data on developmental screening in Washington State since the start of the initiative. This is a snapshot of Yakima's pilot work and research. Beginning in 2010, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician, Diane Liebe and UDS Coordinator at Children's Village began training local primary care providers and assisting them with implementation of universal developmental screening. Local Early Learning Centers (ELC) were trained in UDS as well by the UDS Coordinator and community partners. Together, they trained a total of nine medical practices, including 48 medical providers, and seven ELCs. Eight of the medical practices and all of the ELCs implemented UDS by the end of 2013. Yakima County has a single point of entry into Early Intervention (EI) services, residing with the local Neurodevelopmental Center. Evaluators conducted a retrospective chart review for referrals made into EI for the months of January through June in 2010 and compared these with January through June 2014. They examined the numbers and types of referrals, numbers of developmental screens, numbers of EI evaluations completed, and eligibility rates.

Results: Early Intervention (EI) referrals increased 9.9 percent from 2010 to 2014. The percentage of EI referrals from medical providers increased from 36 percent to 61 percent of total referrals. Referrals from ELCs increased from 5 percent to 8 percent. Eligibility rates for children referred into EI increased from 71 percent in 2010 to 88 percent in 2014. This increase relates with an increase in the average number of children in EI of 38.6 percent between 2010 and 2014.

Conclusions: This study confirms the impact that UDS has on referral trends into EI. Overall referral numbers into EI increased with a higher percentage coming from medical providers/ELCs trained in UDS. In addition, EI eligibility rates increased in those referred, which shows that referrals are more accurate when providers refer children and strategically monitor children at risk. Training community

providers in UDS promotes earlier identification and entrance into services for children with developmental and behavioral concerns. For more information contact Carol.Dean@doh.wa.gov

Contact Information:

Sherry Trout
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Coordinator
Washington State Department of Health
sherrylynn.trout@doh.wa.gov

Carol Dean
Mental Health/Universal Developmental Screening
Washington State Department of Health
carol.dean@doh.wa.gov
Visit our webpage: www.doh.wa.gov/developmentalscreening

