

Spokane Regional Health District-Universal Developmental Screening

In June of 2013, the ITN (Infant Toddler Network) of Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD), and our local Pediatric Champion, Dr. Kristi Rice partnered with the University of Washington GREAT MINDS, and Department of Health to host a community asset mapping (CAM) project. There were nearly 30 participants including representatives from non-profits, education, child care, disability services, Head Start and ECEAP, and parents. In this process, 182 medical providers were surveyed including primary care providers, nurse practitioners, case managers and mental health professionals to determine:

1. the methods they used to identify children who may have developmental concerns or delays
2. barriers to completing developmental screening in their practice
3. their knowledge of community resources to refer a child that has been identified with a concern or delay.

The results of the survey showed that only **55% of professionals surveyed utilized a standardized screening tool** in their practice occasionally and **27% indicated they did not have adequate time to thoroughly screen children**. At that time, **only two pediatric providers who were surveyed used a standardized screening tool routinely**.

Two overarching goals came out of the CAM process: 1) Increase community awareness of the importance of children getting early screening for developmental delays, and 2) Increase the number of Spokane County children getting timely screenings. The community agreed that these were important goals to pursue, but no one had money to move the work forward. SRHD took on the project and began to look for funding.

Phase One

In March 2014, SRHD received a \$10,000 grant from Providence Healthcare Systems to pursue work on the Universal Developmental Screening campaign. Utilizing combined funding, SRHD hired Heather Wallace, Public Health Educator, to take the lead on the project. We worked very closely with our marketing team to develop a campaign that would stretch the grant dollars as far as possible.

SRHD began by identifying and reviewing local, state, and national resources, such as ESIT, CDC, Medical Homes, Great Minds, and Within Reach. The goal was to build on well-established information rather than recreate the wheel. A web page analysis was performed in order to determine which online resource provided the best accessibility to the information. We determined that Within Reach/ParentHelp123 best fit the needs of the project. We also researched screening tools to determine which were the most scientifically sound as well as accessible to parents and community providers. The screening tool we will be discussing is the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3. It is a parent-completed tool that has been created for screening two-month intervals birth to 5 years old. The tool has been scientifically vetted to be accurate and reliable.

A key piece of the first phase was that parents be able to access the developmental screening tool. Parenthelp123 worked with us to develop a link unique to our campaign that directed parents to the screening page. Parenthelp123 is part of the statewide program-Within Reach, which provides parents resources for food access, healthcare service access, immunizations, breastfeeding support, and education regarding child development. Within Reach then scores the screening, contacts the families,

and in case of need, refers the families to our Infant and Toddler Network for a more comprehensive evaluation and early intervention services. PH123 also collects and reports quarterly data back to our program to be included in our project and quality assessment measures

Phase Two

The second phase was a two-year pilot project aimed at identifying clinical and office barriers to providing screenings in pediatrician offices. The purpose of this two year pilot program was to:

1. Gain a better understanding of the attitudes, beliefs and practices of physicians serving children 0-3 as they relate to developmental screening;
2. Identify barriers to completing age appropriate developmental screening utilizing standardized screen tools;
3. Implement pilot screening project with 4 providers
4. Track referral patterns for children identified as needing further evaluation and/or services. The information obtained in this pilot will be utilized to develop a comprehensive campaign to significantly increase the number of physicians completing age appropriate development screening for children 0-3 based on AAP guidelines.

Working with our Universal Developmental Screening Focus Group, which is comprised of members of the community such as service providers, school districts, and Children's Home Society, we set the goal of recruiting four main pediatricians to participate in the project. Pediatrician Dr. Kristi Rice, our UDS champion, conducted the trainings based on curriculum she has developed in collaboration with the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Surprisingly, **we were able to train 11 providers within two large medical systems-CHAS and Rockwood.** We evaluated both processes and outcomes in each office by working closely with providers, nurses, and office staff. We will highlight our data and outcomes during our presentation.

Phase Three

The details of phase three will also be discussed during our presentation. The ultimate long-term goal being that all Spokane pediatricians and Family Practice Providers perform screenings on all children at the APA recommend times and refer children for intervention services when needed.