

WA SMART Networking Call

Friday, Dec 1 2023

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1. Welcome and roll call
2. ECHO Opportunity for Early Intervention and COE Collaboration- Jessica Greenson, UW Autism Center)
3. STAT training update
4. Team/Coalition Update Summary and discussion
5. Next Steps



STAT Update

Early Intervention Providers	Autism COE diagnosticians
Tuesday, Jan 16, 2024	Friday, Feb 9, 2024
Weds, April 3, 2024	Weds, April 17, 2024

Each training will be virtual by ZOOM and take a full day.

Cohorts will be either all early intervention clinicians or autism COEs.

There is room for 20 people in each session. We anticipate more sessions later in 2024.

Also available:

- 1) a half day virtual group follow up and
- 2) individual certification if you choose to code a couple of videos.

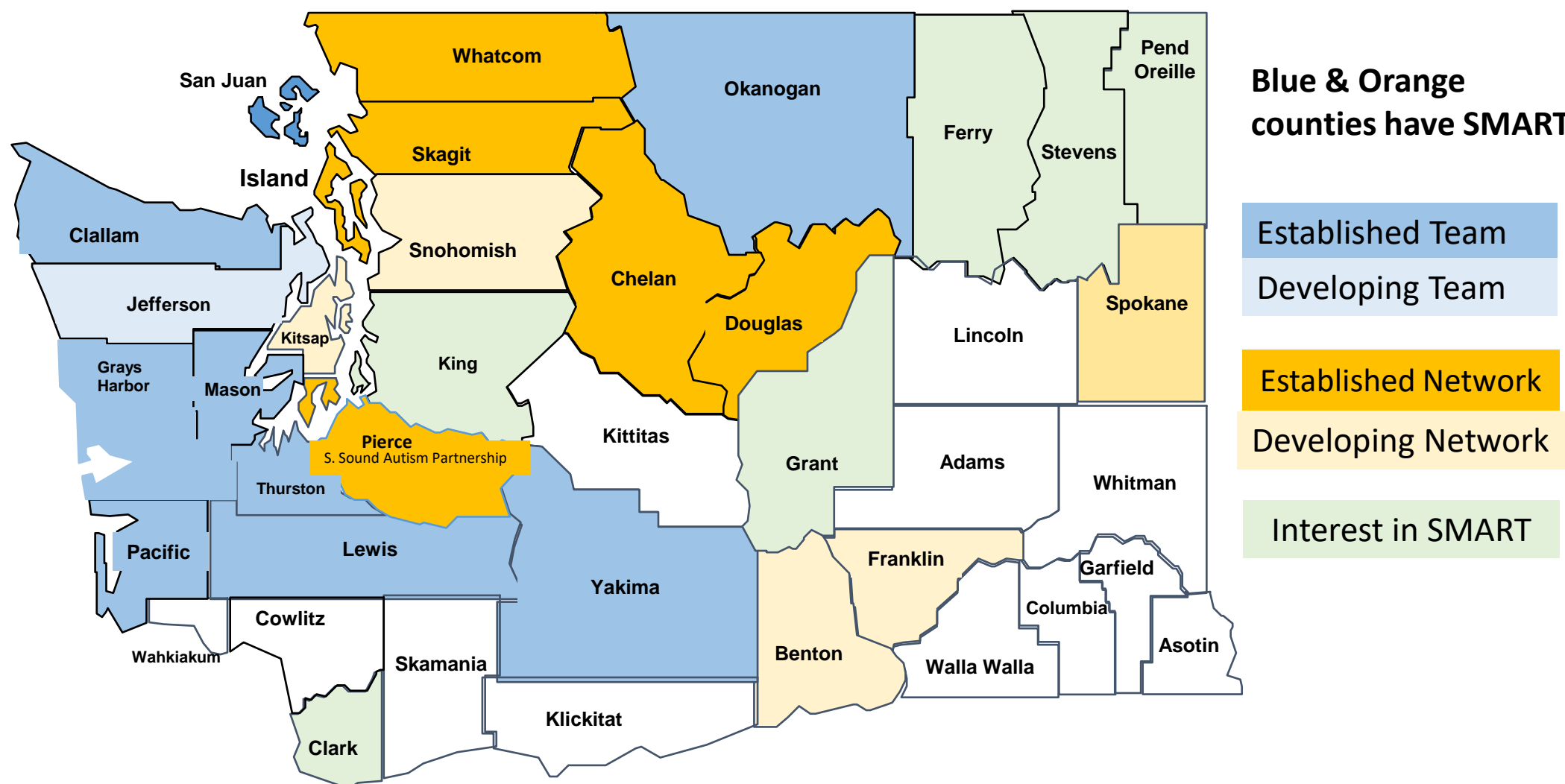
EI/COE Autism Evaluation Collaboration ECHO

SMART Team/Coalition Yearly Update

Oct 1, 2022- Sept 30, 2023

- 17 teams or coalitions provided updates - 25 respondents from 20 counties
- Typically, 1-3 active COEs per group, but some much bigger
- Wide variation in ages seen across birth through adulthood- most teams see children under 11.
- **At least 789 children evaluated in Oct 2022-Sept 2023** (and probably a big undercount)
- Median percentage of evaluated **children receiving an autism diagnosis 80%** (range 44-95%)

SCHOOL AND MEDICAL AUTISM REVIEW TEAMS (SMART) & NETWORKS



What's worked well this past year?

- Incorporating non-COE providers as part of the evaluation process
- Incorporating Complexity/ Triage process for who to evaluate and how (thank you Heather Buzbee!) – and who to refer elsewhere
- Improving communication and coordination process for evaluations with all partners
- Community Health Workers and Autism Resource Navigators; working closely with Parent to Parent
- Expanding assessment capacity (tools - STAT, ADOS, CASD - and people to do).
- Developing team materials
- Demonstrating that over the past year the majority of our autism evaluation visits have been reimbursed!

Challenges

- **Money, time, people**
- **Partnering with school districts**
- Challenging for providers to invest the time to learn a new workflow for autism evals
- Fear of starting an evaluation program and not having the appropriate resources for follow up care and **lack of SLP/OT/ABA and other local resources for families**
- Recruiting enough COEs to participate in the work
- **Getting paperwork back from families –takes coordinator a lot of time to follow up**
- **DDA rules not recognizing an Autism DX from a Naturopathic Doctor COE**
- **Need for more clinician diagnostic tools and training**
- Post COVID, health care providers AND families are overwhelmed; **turnover and changes in who is involved.**

Support needs

- Legislative action for **better reimbursement** from HCA
- **Administrative buy-** in to allow some providers to decrease overall pt encounter numbers to focus on this work
- **Funding** – for outreach, for tools, for training (including ADOS, STAT, RIT...), for salaries of team members
- **CME and other training to continue to build skills**
- Professional development for Care Navigation and **funding for Resource Navigator role** helping both families and COEs
- **Continued mentoring and support from central staff and other teams**
- Finding a way for patients who don't already have an IEP to get cognitive evaluations
- How to use community volunteers/parents
- Be allowed to provide Seattle Children's Accessing Treatment, Learning and Support [\(ATLAS\) class](#) locally with local volunteers

What you want to know from other SMART Communities....

- **How you've adapted the SMART model to your community - Team structures, process, workflows and outreach materials; assessment tools used**
- **How to connect with and get buy in from school districts; how to form partnerships with schools; how to communicate about need for psychological testing for some patients?**
- **How do you engage parents? How do you get paperwork efficiently back from families?**
- **How are you putting support services into place for children with diagnoses and what resources are you sharing with families? How are you paying for person to help families post diagnosis?**
- **How do you track diagnostic fidelity over time?**
- **How to prevent burnout, including not having one or two providers with too heavy a load**
- **How are you handling wait lists for your evaluations?**

Next Steps?

- Next topics to focus on?
- SMART Networking Calendar invites going out for 2024 – next meeting 3rd Thursday Jan 18- no 1st Friday meeting Feb 2 (COE training that day)