Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral System (NDBS) Update

CHIP IN for Quality continues to work with practices on quality improvement around earlier screening and diagnosis of autism and developmental delay. Activities include visiting pediatric providers in 2 areas or “hubs” to share screening tools, resources and information about the early diagnostic clinics opening up in their communities. Current hubs are Bloomington and Lafayette. Evansville starts in the spring. The team including Nancy Swigonski, MD, MPH, Mary Jo Paladino, MSA and Angela Paxton, along with other faculty, present at Grand Rounds or Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions for medical providers and staff in these hubs. They disseminate information about the NDBS, developmental screening, diagnosis and referral. Support for Grand Rounds and visits to the primary care offices is provided in part through IN State Department of Health, Children’s Special Health Care Services Title V funding. Support for the NDBS is provided by Riley Children’s Foundation and the IU School of Med., Dept. of Pediatrics.

Bloomington Hub Update

The pilot program has been a huge success. Since the fall of 2012, over 100 children have been seen by the Early Evaluation Clinic at Southern Indiana Pediatrics (SIP) in Bloomington, IN. The clinic is operated by SIP staff and Dr. Dorota Szczepaniak and Dr. Tom Lock from the Dept. of Pediatrics. 36 % of the children, who are 18-42 months old, seen at the Early Evaluation Clinic have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Figure 1). The average age of diagnosis for ASD is 31.6 months (Figure 2), well within the nationally recommended time period when intervention is most successful. Regarding children above 3 years of age, Monroe Community Schools shared that developmental preschool enrollment increased from an average of 6 children to 24 children enrolled in the fall of 2013.

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**Lafayette Hub Update**

The Early Diagnostic Clinic at IU Health Arnett in Lafayette, IN is using a different model than the one at the Bloomington pilot. Instead of pediatricians holding clinic one day a week, 2 Nurse Practitioners will be providing early evaluation services. Staff from IU Health Arnett were trained over a 6 week period by NDBS faculty and staff. They had an opportunity to not only learn about autism screening and diagnosis, but about quality and system improvement as well. Each week, the learners and NDBS faculty administered the early diagnostic tool, the STAT, to patients 18-42 months old. Children are identified with the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) by their pediatric provider and referred to the early evaluation clinic.

**Important News from our CHIP IN Partners**

**Message to Parents of Children with ASD Targeted for the Family Supports Medicaid Waiver**

Part of CHIP IN’s mission is to share resources with families, including information about private and/or public insurance to pay for the services they need. Our family organization partners including About Special Kids (ASK), Autism Society of Indiana, Family Voices Indiana and The Arc of Indiana want to share an important message with parents of children with ASD targeted for the Family Supports Medicaid Waiver. When an individual is approved for the Family Supports Waiver he or she will be moved to a traditional Medicaid Disability plan, which does not offer ABA benefits, resulting in the loss of coverage for ABA. Visit [http://fvindiana.blogspot.com/2014/02/important-info-for-families-with-child.html](http://fvindiana.blogspot.com/2014/02/important-info-for-families-with-child.html) for more details.

**Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) has been Revised**

The M-CHAT Revised with Follow Up (M-CHAT R/F) is now available for free download: [www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/M-CHAT/Official_M-CHAT_Website.html](http://www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/M-CHAT/Official_M-CHAT_Website.html)

This validated tool takes 5 minutes to complete and 2 minutes to score. Revised 12/23/13, there are less false positive screens and a higher ASD detection rate. The M-CHAT R/F is validated for 16-30 month olds.

*Validation of the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised With Follow-up (M-CHAT-R/F) Diana L. Robins, Karis Casagrande, Marianne Barton, Chi-Ming A. Chen, Thyde Dumont-Mathieu and Deborah Fein Pediatrics 2014;133;37; originally published online December 23, 2013; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2013-1813*