

American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Mental Health

About the Task Force on Mental Health

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Task Force on Mental Health was formed in 2004 by the AAP Board of Directors. It is chaired by Jane M. Foy, MD and is comprised of 10 AAP members, 5 AAP member consultants, and liaisons from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, the Child Neurology Society, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Medical Association, and the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

Function and Directives

The function of the AAP Task Force on Mental Health is to coordinate AAP mental health efforts toward achievement of the following directives:

1. Develop a mental health tool kit that will include material regarding how to screen, diagnose, and treat the 4-5 most common mental health conditions.
2. Create a training to accompany the tool kit that will educate pediatricians on screening, diagnosis, treatment, cultural effectiveness, and methods to educate the entire pediatric team.
3. Create a screening tool or approach to assist pediatricians in evaluating the family's wellness.
4. Sponsor a marketing campaign to promote the benefits of a child receiving treatment from a pediatrician.
5. Develop and disseminate educational material to parents on the appropriate stages of child development, parenting methods, and where to seek help if mental health treatment is needed.



Current Activities

The activities of the Task Force on Mental Health are focused around 3 goals:

Facilitate system changes

- Dissemination of Mental Health Chapter Action Kit
- Negotiations with insurers and business leaders at the national level
- Joint position paper with AACAP on the Financial and Administrative Barriers to Collaboration
- Recommendations for collaboration at the community level
- PediaLink education module

Build competence

- Policy statement on mental health competencies
- Educational programs keyed to competencies
- Teleconferences on rural mental health and generic techniques to address mental health problems

Incrementally change practice

- Algorithms to describe process for mental health care in the medical home
- Tools to screen child and family
- Tools to assess functioning
- Decision support for commonly presenting problems
- Web site for resources, collaborative models



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