

December 2007

Improving Mental Health in Primary Care Through Access, Collaboration, and Training

IMPACT Children’s Mental Health E-News

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is pleased to bring you the December 2007 issue of the Improving Mental Health in Primary Care Through Access, Collaboration, and Training (IMPACT) E-News. Each E-News issue contains the latest news, research, and resources in children’s mental health; upcoming conferences and Web casts; funding opportunities; as well as current articles of interest in *Pediatrics*. We hope this electronic publication will help you find valuable resources and information on children’s mental health. To subscribe to the electronic mailing list, or if you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please contact Stephanie Nelson at snelson@aap.org.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Telepsychiatry for Rural Alabama Children

Marsha Raulerson, MD, FAAP, a pediatrician in Brewton, Alabama, applied for a Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grant in 2004, dealing with “Telepsychiatry for Rural Alabama Children.” Separate from this grant, Dr Raulerson linked with Children’s Hospital and Tom Vaughan, MD, a child psychiatrist, to set a demonstration site for this project in Brewton. The Children’s Health System became the location for Dr Vaughan to perform assessments, diagnoses, and development of a “best practice” treatment plan using the resources of the Health System, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

There is a severe shortage of child psychiatrists within the US, particularly the southern rural areas and including Alabama. Thus, children who live in rural areas of Alabama such as Escambia County and Brewton are unable to get quick psychiatric assessment and in some cases any psychiatric assessment near their homes. The “Telepsychiatry for Rural Alabama Children” project proposed to correct or at least to ameliorate the problem by providing readily accessible television assisted assessment, diagnosis, and team treatment from a site in Birmingham, Alabama.

The IMPACT Children’s Mental Health E-News is funded through a grant (G95MC05434) from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), to the AAP.

With the Brewton project, children were assigned to telemedicine appointments by a consultation agreement between the two MDs (child psychiatrist and pediatrician). A protocol was developed for the completion of necessary paperwork prior to the appointment. At the end of the child’s interview, a diagnosis and treatment plan was developed addressing the biopsychosocial strengths and weaknesses of the child, the family, and the local system of care. Specific goals and objectives were addressed along with a follow up care plan. Medications alone were not sufficient for most of the consumers receiving the telepsychiatry as these consumers had severe emotional concerns. The importance of therapy and case management was emphasized and this led to a partnership with the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Southwest Alabama Mental Health (SWAMH) Center. The SWAMH provided a case manager to the project which assisted with getting persons to appointments. The “no show” rate for telemedicine is very low.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Telepsychiatry for Rural Alabama Children

Spotlight article continued

Over the next several years, the local committee linked to the CATCH planning grant worked diligently on sustainability. With the Alabama Department of Mental Health being able to secure funding, an evaluation component was built into the project. State Medicaid and AllKids participated directly with Medicaid allowing for telepsychiatry through the DMH Rehab Option. Up until this point, Dr Vaughan had been donating his time. This now allowed for a billing mechanism, but Dr Vaughan would have to become a contract employee of SWAMH for the billing to occur.

Another complication occurred. The University of South Alabama had a grant that allowed for the use of technology and that ended approximately in 2005. Again, the local committee had numerous meetings to try and establish solutions. As negotiations occurred with Children's Hospital around Dr Vaughan's contract, the technology complication was an issue that Children's Hospital staff assisted with securing alternative technological options that were more affordable.

Approximately a year ago, a second CATCH grant was secured by Dr Gillis Payne in Montgomery, Alabama with the aspiration of replicating the Brewton project. Again, Dr Tom Vaughan and Children's Hospital agreed to this partnership. Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority (MAMHA) was a partner in this process along with several other pediatricians.

In 2007, the negotiations with Children's Hospital around the contracting process for Dr Vaughan's time was complete and Children's Hospital staff is continuing to provide technical assistance with the technology transfer of equipment and location (moved into each mental health center). The 2 projects will be demonstrating the changes with an evaluation component.

In April 2007, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Illness Division, Child and Adolescent Task Force approved the Child and Adolescent Telemedicine Project, which expands to 4 additional sites: Wiregrass Mental Health Center, Mobile Mental Health Center, Cheaha Mental Health Center, and Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center. This is all in an effort to grow telepsychiatry. The payor sources will continue to be partners in the process. It is the intention of all parties involved that the evaluation outcomes will allow for the payors to expand reimbursement into public and private sectors and/or choose to include telemedicine as a reimbursable service.

For additional information, please contact Kim Hammack from Alabama's Department of Mental Health at kim.hammack@mh.alabama.gov.

UPDATES

Web casts

Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care

This online series from the Northwest Area Health Education Center at Wake Forest University School of Medicine discusses screening, diagnosis, management, and referral of children with mental health disorders. It is now available with 6 recorded presentations.

Data Matters

This interactive electronic newsletter from Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development highlights the importance of data to keep readers up-to-date on the latest in the field of children's mental health.

More UPDATES

Conferences/ Educational Opportunities

Kentucky Child Now Trainings—October 2007-April 2008, Kentucky

Kentucky Child Now, the state's lead agency for America's Promise, will present a series of trainings starting in October 2007 and continuing through April 2008 in the Bluegrass, Communicare, and River Valley Community Mental Health regions for the state of Kentucky. The 4-hour trainings for pediatricians, primary health care providers, nurses, and mental health professionals will focus on mental and behavioral health issues in children and adolescents. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive a Bright Futures Mental Health Toolkit, as well as Continuing Medical Education units or Continuing Education units for participation. There is no fee for the training, however registration is required.

Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health—February 24-27, 2008, Tampa, FL

Since 1986, the University of South Florida Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health has hosted this event to expand the research base necessary to improve service systems for children with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances and their families.

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference—March 1-5, 2008, Alexandria, VA

The 2008 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) conference will bring together leaders in maternal and child health, public health practitioners, and family advocates. The conference will highlight the impact maternal and child health programs are making at the national, state, and local level for women, children, and families.

Georgetown University Training Institutes—July 16-20, 2008, Nashville, TN

The Training Institutes offer an opportunity to obtain in-depth, practical information on how to develop and operate comprehensive, coordinated, community-based systems of care and how to provide high-quality, effective, clinical interventions and supports within them.

AWARDS/ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Vulnerable Populations Portfolio Grants—Due: Continuous

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is seeking proposals on new community-based approaches to health and health care problems that intersect with social factors.

Health and Mental Health Grants Program—Due: Rolling

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation is seeking applications for the health and mental health grants program, which seeks to increase access for underserved individuals to quality health care.

Healthy Community Grants Program—Due: Rolling

The Aetna Foundation will award up to \$3 million for philanthropic initiatives focused on community-based initiatives that increase access to quality health care and improve overall wellness. Initiatives may include early treatment and diagnosis to help minimize the incidence of disabilities due to mental health issues.

Access to Care—Due: Rolling

The Amgen Foundation is seeking applications that support health, quality of care, and access to care.

AWARDS/ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Access to Care—Due: Rolling

The Hearst Foundation is offering grants to nonprofit organizations that seek to improve and assure access to quality health care for underserved populations in both urban and rural areas. Grants are primarily awarded to leading regional hospitals, medical centers, and specialized institutions.

Community Access to Child Health (CATCH)—Due: January 31, 2008

The American Academy of Pediatrics is pleased to announce another cycle of CATCH implementation funds. The program supports pediatricians in the initial and/or pilot stage of developing and implementing a community-based child health initiative.

Additional Funding Opportunities for Community-Based Initiatives

The AAP Division of Community-Based Initiatives provides information on funding from the AAP and other organizations, as well as links to key funding resources and agencies.

RESOURCES & RESEARCH

Please note that some of the links provided will take you to the abstract for the article and there may be additional steps necessary to view the full text.

Strategies for System Change in Children’s Mental Health: A Chapter Action Kit

The AAP Task Force on Mental Health (TFOMH) has developed this kit to assist AAP chapters in addressing and improving children’s mental health in primary care in their state. The Chapter Action Kit focuses on 6 core action areas that provide strategies for improving children’s mental health programs and services. That 6 areas include: (1) Partner with Families, (2) Assess the Service Environment, (3) Collaborate with Mental Health Professionals, (4) Education Chapter Members, (5) Partner with Child-serving Agencies, (6) Improve Children’s Mental Health Financing. If you have further questions about the Chapter Action Kit, please email snelson@aap.org or call 847-434-4776.

Effects of Childhood Trauma in Patients with First Episode Schizophrenia

This study evaluates the impact of childhood trauma in patients with first episode schizophrenia.

Knowledge Path: Children and Adolescents with Emotional, Behavioral, and Mental Health Challenges

This knowledge path was produced by the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Library and identifies tools for staying abreast of new developments in mental health care and for conducting further research. Separate sections contain resources for families and schools.

Knowledge Path: Healthy Social and Emotional Development in Children and Adolescents

This electronic guide presents resources by age group (infants and young children, school-age children, adolescents) on the topics such as developmental stages; factors that impact social and emotional development; policies and programs to promote social and emotional well-being in homes and community settings; and strategies for integrating health, development, and educational services.

Early Evidence on the Effects of Regulators’ Suicidality Warnings on SSRI Prescriptions and Suicide in Children and Adolescents

The authors assessed whether warnings discouraged use of antidepressants in children and adolescents and whether they led to increases in suicide rates as a result of untreated depression.

More RESOURCES & RESEARCH

Issue Briefs From Georgetown University Training Institutes

These issue briefs summarize presentations and recommendations from the special forums held at the 2006 Georgetown University Training Institutes. The special forums focused on communities and populations with unique service needs, requiring specialized planning and service delivery approaches within mental health systems of care. The goals of the special forums were to summarize issues and challenges related to each topic, identify effective service delivery strategies, and develop recommendations for policy and technical assistance.

Mental Health and Behavioral Problems of Youth in the Child Welfare System: Residential Treatment Centers Compared to Therapeutic Foster Care in the Odyssey Project Population

This is the first multisite, prospective study of behavioral and mental health disorders of youth in residential treatment centers (RTC) and therapeutic foster care (TFC), and the first study to compare the 2. This study addressed 2 questions in a sample of 22 agencies and 13 states: (1) How prevalent were emotional and behavioral disorders in the youth admitted to RTC's and TFC?, and (2) Were the youth in the RTC's significantly more likely to be disturbed than youth served in TFCs?

National Trends in Outpatient Diagnosis and Treatment of Bipolar Disorder in Youth

This study presents national trends in outpatient visits with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and compares the treatment provided to youth and adults during those visits.

Incidence and Practical Issues of Mental Health for School-Aged Youth in Juvenile Justice Detention

This study documents rates of youth referred for adjudication to a state juvenile justice system who have coexisting and often unidentified mental illnesses.

Feasibility, Acceptability, and Sustainability of Telepsychiatry for Children and Adolescents

This study examined the feasibility, acceptability, and sustainability of telepsychiatry service for children and adolescents living in nonmetropolitan communities.

Effects of Treating Postnatal Depression on Mother-Infant Interaction and Child Development

This study assesses the benefits of treating postnatal depression for mother-infant interaction and child development.

Meeting the Health Care Needs of California's Children: The Role of Telemedicine

This issue brief informs leaders and the public on how telemedicine, when applied appropriately, can address the health care needs of children in California, particularly children from families with low incomes who live in medically underserved areas.

Predictors of Initiation of Alcohol Use Among US Adolescents

This study identifies precursors of adolescent alcohol initiation and binge drinking.

Arrests of Adolescent Clients of a Public Mental Health System During Adolescence and Young Adulthood

This study examined the relationship of age and gender with risk of arrest among adolescents and young adults who were intensive adolescent users of public mental health services.

Risk of Psychological Difficulties Among Children Raised by Custodial Grandparents

This study involves data from custodial grandparents in a study funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health and caregivers from the 2001 National Health Interview Survey.

More RESOURCES & RESEARCH

Clinical Epidemiology of Urban Violence: Responding to Children Exposed to Violence in Ten Communities

This study explores the clinical epidemiology of children's exposure to violence as addressed by a program in which mental health clinicians work with law enforcement agents in 10 US cities.

National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is expanding its National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) Web site by providing information from the agency's Model Program Initiative. The NREPP is a searchable online registry of mental health and substance abuse interventions that have been reviewed and rated by independent experts. The registry consists of local organizations in identifying interventions that have been scientifically tested and can be readily disseminated to the field.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS PEDIATRICS JOURNAL

The current issue of the AAP journal *Pediatrics* is now available online. Articles of interest include:

October

Family Breakup and Adolescents' Psychosocial Maladjustment: Public Health Implications of Family Disruptions

Christelle Roustit, MD, Basile Chaix, PhD, and Pierre Chauvin, MD, PhD
Pediatrics 120: e984-e991

November

Children of Mothers with HIV/AIDS: Unmet Needs for Mental Health Services

Laurie J Bauman, PhD, Ellen J Silver, PhD, Barbara Draimin, DSW, and Jan Hudis, MPH
Pediatrics120: e1141-e1147

Guidelines for Adolescent Depression in Primary Care (GLAD-PC): I. Identification, Assessment, and Initial Management (AAP endorsed this statement)

Rachel A Zuckerbrot, MD, Amy H Cheung, MD, Peter S Jensen, MD, Ruth EK Stein, MD, Danielle Laraque, MD and the GLAD-PC Steering Group
Pediatrics 120: e1299-e1312

Guidelines for Adolescent Depression in Primary Care (GLAD-PC): II. Treatment and Ongoing Management (AAP endorsed this statement)

Amy H Cheung, MD, Rachel A Zuckerbrot, MD, Peter S Jensen, MD, Kareem Ghalib, MD, Danielle Laraque, MD, Ruth EK Stein, MD, and the GLAD-PC Steering Group
Pediatrics 120: e1313-e1326

Treating Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder with a Stimulant Transdermal Patch: The Clinical Art

L Eugene Arnold, MD, Ronald L Lindsay, MD, Frank A Lopez, MD, Sharon E Jacob, MD, Joseph Biederman, MD, Robert L Findling, MD and Yaser Ramadan, MD
Pediatrics 120: 1100-1106

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Management of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Scott M Myers, MD, Chris Plauche Johnson, MD, MEd and the Council with Disabilities
Pediatrics 120: 1162-1182

Identification and Evaluation of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Chris Plauche Johnson, MD, MEd, Scott M Myers, MD, and the Council on Children with Disabilities
Pediatrics 120: 1183-1215

December

The Role of Schools in Combating Illicit Substance Abuse

Council on School Health and Committee on Substance Abuse
Pediatrics 120: 1379-1384

Permission is given to forward the IMPACT Children's Mental Health E-News to individual colleagues.

The editors welcome your submissions, suggestions, and questions.

Please contact us at the address below.

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