

CURRENT AAP MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

9/26/07

In 2004, in response to the growing need to address children's mental health concerns in primary care, the AAP Board of Directors formed the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Task Force on Mental Health (TFOMH). The task force is responsible for providing feedback and guidance to AAP staff on mental health projects as outlined in the AAP Mental Health Action Plan. The following are resources available to AAP members:

Chapter Action Kit

The TFOMH has developed *Strategies for System Change in Children's Mental Health: A Chapter Action 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 the following 6 core action areas that provide strategies for improving children's mental health programs and services:

- 1) Strategies to Partner with Families
- 2) Strategies to Assess the Service Environment
- 3) Strategies to Collaborate with Mental Health Professionals
- 4) Strategies to Educate Chapter Members
- 5) Strategies to Partner with Child-Serving Agencies
- 6) Strategies to Improve Children's Mental Health Financing

Within each core action area, the AAP includes information on the overall issue, implications for chapter work, suggested chapter strategies, resources for further information, and selected tools related to the topic. It is important to note that as chapters begin their efforts and identify the children's mental health issues specific to their state, additional strategies, resources, and tools may be identified in addition to what is included in this action kit. The Chapter Action Kit is not intended to be exhaustive but rather to help serve as a starting point for chapter efforts. Each chapter will want to consider and tailor their activities and strategies specific to their own state issues and needs, and chapter resources.

E-News

The Improving Mental Health in Primary Care Through Access, Collaboration, and Training (IMPACT) *E-News* is a bi-monthly electronic publication that 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*.

Peds 21

In 2005, "Connecting for Children's Sake: Integrating Physical and Mental Health Care in the Medical Home" Symposium was held in conjunction with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Conference and Exhibition. The Pediatrics for the 21st

Century (Peds-21) Symposium Series is an AAP initiative designed to address emerging issues that will impact the practice of pediatrics and pediatric care in the 21st century. Each symposium focuses on a specific topic and features a keynote speaker of national or international stature. Other expert speakers are invited to give scientific and scholarly presentations on key content areas or issues related to the specific symposium's theme. Project abstracts and powerpoint presentations can be accessed at www.aap.org/mentalhealth.

Rural Mental Health Teleconference

The TFOMH, Bright Futures, and the Rural Health Special Interest Group of the Council on Community Pediatrics sponsored a teleconference for pediatricians practicing in rural communities focusing on addressing mental health concerns in rural areas. Two rural pediatricians spoke of their collaborative practice, one in rural VT and the other in rural NE Arizona on an Indian reservation.

In Process

Algorithms

The TFOMH is drafting clinical algorithms to assist primary care clinicians in 1) promoting mental health, identifying problems, engaging children and families, and determining which children need further diagnostic assessment and 2) assessing and caring of children with identified problems. The algorithms are currently being vetted. As appendices to the algorithms, the TFOMH will articulate competencies corresponding to each step in the clinical process and appropriate CPT codes.

Policy Statement on Behavioral/Mental Health Competencies for Primary Care

A draft policy statement on behavioral/mental health competencies in primary care is under review. This policy statement is authored by the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health (COPACFH) and the TFOMH. Anticipated publication date is November 2007.

Communication Skills Teleconference

A continuing medical education (CME) teleconference on communication skills to address mental health concerns is currently under development. It is anticipated that this teleconference will take place in fall 2007.

Integrating Models for Mental Health White Paper

The financing subcommittee of the TFOMH is collaborating with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Subcommittee on Healthcare Access and Economics to develop a white paper on the financing of integrative models for mental health.

Mental Health Slogan

A logo incorporating the slogan "Head to toe, we want to know" has been developed to promote early identification and treatment of mental health concerns and to promote the

pediatrician as a resource for mental health as well as physical health. The mental health staff is working with the Department of Marketing to develop a plan for using the logo.

Mental Health Web site

The mental health Web site, www.aap.org/mentalhealth, has been enhanced to highlight existing mental health-related programs and resources.

Peds-21 Final Report

The report from the general session of *Connecting for Children's Sake – Integrating Physical and Mental Health Care in the Medical Home* at the 2005 AAP National Conference & Exhibition is in production. This report summarizes the keynote address by David Satcher, MD and the presentations made by various AAP members addressing mental health in their communities.

PediaLink Module on Collaboration

A PediaLink module is under development to assist pediatricians and other primary care professionals to enhance the provision of mental health services in primary care. The module also will be made available to mental health specialists. The module will include information on various models of collaborative practice and types of mental health specialists (by licensure, scope of practice, training differences, etc) and skills to engage the child and family in mental health care.

Questions

For questions regarding the AAP mental health initiatives, please feel free to contact the following staff:

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