Family Engagement Initiatives Update
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – Spring 2018

March 2018

While the AAP has a long history of engaging patients and families in its activities, more concerted efforts have taken place over the past several years. Efforts around family engagement have been coordinated by 2 primary groups: (1) the Family Partnerships Network, and (2) a staff Family Engagement Workgroup.

Family Partnerships Network
The mission of the AAP Family Partnerships Network (FPN) is to represent family and youth perspectives, lead and facilitate youth and family engagement, and support ongoing youth and family involvement at the local, state and national level. Additional information about the FPN can be found at www.aap.org/fpn.

Staff Family Engagement Work Group
The staff Family Engagement Work Group includes staff representatives from nearly every AAP department who meet monthly to advance efforts related to AAP objectives on family engagement and to share information and resources.

Family Engagement Activities
Family engagement activities taking place at the AAP include the following:

- The AAP Friends of Children-funded “Committees and Family Engagement (CAFÉ) Program” involves the addition of a family liaison to the following: AAP Committee on Hospital Care, AAP Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine, AAP Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine, and AAP Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health for 2 years. A final evaluation has been conducted which revealed that overall, the addition of a family liaison was beneficial. Next steps are being considered.
- Five AAP Chapters were awarded $4,000 grants to increase family engagement at the chapter level. The awarded chapters and topics of their proposals included:
  - Florida: Engaging families and residents in state advocacy
  - Maryland: Developing a Latino Youth Advisory Board
  - Montana: Engaging families to help educate pediatricians about transgender health issues
  - New Hampshire: Enhancing family engagement throughout the chapter infrastructure and in practices
  - Puerto Rico: Engaging youth and residents to educate pediatricians about depression screening and mental health
- The FPN Executive Committee will attend the 2018 AAP Legislative Conference and will explore how families might partner on AAP legislative advocacy moving forward.

1. The family is the principal caregiver and the center of strength and support for children.

2. The AAP recognizes that perspectives and information provided by families, children, adolescents, and young adults are essential components of collaborative decision-making in the delivery of high-quality, safe, and compassionate care. Patients and their families are integral partners of the health care team.

3. The AAP recognizes the value of diversity among patients, families, and pediatricians. The delivery of care within the context of appropriate physician knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of cultural and population distinctions take into account families’ experiences, beliefs, values actions, customs, and unique health care needs.

4. Recognizing, valuing, and building on the strengths of individual children and families and empowering them to discover and communicate their own strengths, build confidence, and partner in making choices and decisions about their health care is vital to optimal health and development.

5. To promote improved patient, family, and physician experiences and outcomes, the AAP encourages and supports family engagement in its core competencies of education, practice, research, and advocacy.
Family Engagement Initiatives Update
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – Spring 2018

“Family Partnerships” articles that have been submitted to Pediatrics are now undergoing review by family peer reviewers. The FPN will serve as the pool from which family peer reviewers are recruited.

A session, “Don’t Forget the Dads”, was accepted for the 2018 AAP National Conference. Staff are currently exploring how to meaningfully engage fathers in this session.

A Virtual Family Panel to HealthyChildren.org (the official AAP website for families) has been established. Interested families can sign up through the registration form on HealthyChildren.org. Over 5,000 individuals have expressed interest to date. Staff will be exploring how best to utilize the expertise of the Virtual Family Panel over the coming months.

Currently, the FPN includes approximately 70 family leaders from across the country. About 15 of these individuals have formal family liaison roles on AAP committees, councils, and sections.

A group of staff developed a feedback form for family representatives to complete when reviewing AAP consumer products. The feedback form was piloted within the Division of Professional and Consumer Publishing and is being used more broadly among several staff.

Dr Debra Waldron, Senior Vice President of Child Health and Wellness and Betsy Anderson, Co-chairperson of the Family Partnerships Network presented about AAP family engagement efforts at the Council of Medical Specialty Societies’ (CMSS) Patient and Family Engagement Summit held in November.

Staff have reviewed family engagement activities taking place within AAP state chapters and have begun brainstorming how best to support AAP state chapters with their family engagement efforts, including updating a family engagement tip sheet geared toward state chapters.

Staff will be facilitating a call with AAP youth/family liaisons twice a year to update them on AAP family engagement activities and to provide them with an opportunity to connect with other AAP youth/family liaisons. The first call will be held in early April.

What You Can Do

- Encourage youth or family advisors/leaders to join the Family Partnerships Network. There is no cost to join, and family advisors/leaders can join by completing the online application at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPNApp. Joining the Network will allow family advisors/leaders to receive information about AAP leadership or volunteer opportunities and other relevant child health updates, as well as engage with other family advisors/leaders who are working on child health-related programs or policy activities.
- Reach out to the FPN and/or the staff Family Engagement Workgroup for advice or consultation.

For additional information about the FPN or the staff Family Engagement Workgroup, contact Sunnah Kim at skim@aap.org or Christina Boothby at cboothby@aap.org.

March 2018