HRSA-13-244 Regional Access Collaborative: Improving Diagnosis, Treatment and Services for Children and Youths with Epilepsy

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Regional Access Collaborative: Improving Diagnosis, Treatment and Services for Children and Youths with Epilepsy

Applicant: Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey

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Problem: There is currently a lack of services for children and youths with epilepsy. This is complicated by poor communication between primary care physicians and specialists, a lack of current information for pediatricians about diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy as well as a lack of information about available resources for families of children and youth with epilepsy.

Major Goal #1: To increase awareness of epilepsy and improve access to coordinated and comprehensive care for children and youths with epilepsy that promote early recognition, timely diagnosis, and access to appropriate care, particularly to underserved geographical areas and groups.

Objectives:

1. Develop *Improving Accurate Diagnosis & Treatment of Epilepsy: A Training for Pediatric Practice Teams.*
2. Conduct 21 trainings at large pediatric practices and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York.
3. Present training at state Title V meeting and at state school nurse and Department of Health Conferences.

Major Goal #2: Enhance the knowledge of children and youths with epilepsy and their families about epilepsy, treatment, health and local community services.

Objectives:

1. Organize parent focus groups which will allow parents to give valuable feedback about what services they are receiving and what services are needed.
2. Connect children and youth with epilepsy and their families to the services and local resources including the Epilepsy Foundation and Family Voices. Online and print materials will be made available.

**Methodology:** The primary component for improving access to services for children and youths with epilepsy is the proposed pediatric practice training *Improving Accurate Diagnosis & Treatment of Epilepsy: A Training for Pediatric Practice Teams*. The training will allow for pediatric practice teams to learn more about seizure recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and improved coordination of care and communication among providers.

**Coordination:** The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey will partner with the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut and the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York. A regional approach will enable the project to track different approaches to common problems, provide broader reach in data collection, and allow geographic, socioeconomic and demographic impact comparison. The project will be supported by the Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group, a tri-state comprehensive epilepsy center. This project will also allow working closely with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Title V, and Family Voices.

**Evaluation:** EFNJ will be using multiple methods of evaluation including hiring an independent evaluation firm as well as utilizing internal resources for data collection, needs assessment, and learning collaborative to monitor the project’s progress in achieving goals and objectives.

**Annotation:** The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey will partner with the Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group, Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeast New York to implement a community based system of services for children and youths with epilepsy and their families. The goal of this grant is to undertake a multi-state approach toward addressing the maldistribution of resources and services for children and youth with epilepsy. The grant partners propose an educational opportunity for pediatric practice teams to learn more about seizure recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and improved coordination of care and communication among providers.