

The President's New Freedom Initiative Project Abstract

Title: State Implementation Grants for Integrated Community Systems for CSHCN

Project Number: (CFDA #93-110)

Project Director: Sarah Cooper

Organization Name: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Address: Post Office Box 101106, Columbia, S.C. 29211

Contact Person: Sarah Cooper **Phone:** 803-898-0776

FAX Number: 803-898-0613 **Email:** coopers@dhec.sc.gov

Project Period: 3 years **From:** 5/1/05 to 4/30/08

PROBLEM According to Kids Count, the state ranks 46th in the health and well-being of children. High rates of poverty and low literacy levels exacerbate health problems that include high incidences of infant mortality, morbidity and low birth weight, large numbers of children and youth with special health care needs, and unacceptable health disparities. The state ranks 42nd in per capita income with many mothers employed in low-paying jobs without benefits. More than one third of children live in single parent homes. Long-term barriers to health care include uneven distribution of physicians, low Medicaid reimbursement rates that lead to too few physicians caring for Medicaid eligible children, and growing numbers of Hispanic families and families who are uninsured. State budget cuts threaten existing services.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES The project's overarching goal is the creation of inclusive, community-based systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN). Six goals address the six core outcomes for CYCHSN. Comprehensive grant objectives support the integration of state and community-based systems of services through the careful collection and analysis of primary and secondary data designed to support policy development, the creation of innovative partnerships across agencies and disciplines to implement needed organizational change, and comprehensive training strategies that include participant input designed to support and guide policy analysis and change.

METHODOLOGY Grant partners include six state agencies, two state medical associations, policy makers, family focused non-profits, families and youth, two medical schools, community organizations and more. The project builds upon the extremely successful state Medical Home Project funded by a 3-year HRSA grant. 27 measurable objectives define a comprehensive offering of organizational assessment and change, assessing and improving cultural competence of providers and family opportunities for inclusion in decision making at all levels, expansion of existing comprehensive medical homes in number and scope, expanding screening activities across systems, ensuring more CYSHCN are adequately insured, and improving transition programs at all levels. Training is a major strategy that incorporates convening targeted groups, sharing information, and securing input to be used for policy change.

COORDINATION The expansion of the State Medical Home Team, collaboration with a wide variety of existing planning and health service programs, and the development of a long-overdue Youth Advisory Committee will ensure coordination and collaboration of all stakeholder efforts.

EVALUATION A comprehensive evaluation will ensure grant objectives are met in a timely manner as well as track improvement in local systems of care and integration of services at all levels. A variety of instruments will be used including sophisticated secondary data analysis from program and claims systems, a comprehensive annual survey for families of CYSHCN, organizational assessment tools, primary data collection in the form of pre and post-tests, and qualitative data collected through focus groups, structured interviews, and meeting minutes.