BACKGROUND

Behavioral health expenses are rooted in early childhood – in problems unaddressed in infancy, preschool and elementary school. Two cutting edge approaches focus on early identification, prevention, intervention and care coordination.

APPROACH #1: 211LA Developmental Screening and Care Coordination Program

211LA, is a national network serving those with non-emergent crises. 211LA serves greater Los Angeles and its 1 ½ million children under age 6: 45% of parents lack high school education and ~ 43% speak only Spanish. Predictably, families in crisis, have children at extremely high risk for developmental and behavioral problems.

In 2009, 211LA (www.211LA.org) initiated development and behavior screening by inviting callers with children birth through five years of age to talk about their children are doing. Most caretakers, 86%, respond to the offer, at which point calls are transferred to 211LA Care Coordination Specialists.

The Specialists then administer screening tests by telephone interview via PEDS Online—a web-based screening service offering three validated, accurate developmental-behavioral screens [Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS), PEDS: Developmental Milestones (PEDS:DM) and the Modified Checklist of Autism in Toddlers – Revised (MCHAT-R)].

Because PEDS Online screens are readily administered by interview and results delivered in real-time, 211LA can then provide a live three-way call to connect families to needed services such as Head Start/Early Head Start, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, etc.

211LA’s referral coordination efforts render enrollment rates more than twice as high as those found in primary care (where parents are often simply given a phone number to call) which is especially noteworthy given the extremely vulnerable families 211LA serves. Numerous inter-agency agreements ensure that families are followed, enrollment confirmed, and databases shared for optimal tracking of outcomes over time.

APPROACH #2: Delaware Division of Public Health

After ranking 50th among US States in percent of children screened, Delawareans sought legislative funding enabling health care providers to use PEDS Online at no expense to practices. Division of Public Health (DE DPH) leads the initiative.

Help Me Grow (HMG211DE) supports the 211 call center and provides referral/care coordination assistance families, clinics and agencies.

The Delaware Academy of Medicine’s online training videos housed on a website along with slide shows, referral algorithms, etc. (www.pedstest.com/ForDelawareUsers).

By the end of 2014, ~40% of young children had been screened (moving Delaware to from 50th to 21st). Referral and enrollment rates in IDEA Part C or HMG211DE vastly increased.

Comments

Online services using quality screens:

- Ensure accurate early detection and increase rates of early identification
- Provide automated reports that facilitate referrals to prevention/intervention services
- Are proven to be highly effective for large-scale care-coordination initiatives
- Generate extractable databases that can be integrated with other databases to improve long-term outcomes tracking, i.e., beyond the 0 to 8 year age range

PEDS Online

www.pedstest.com/online