

DC Collaborative for Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care



Our Initiatives:

- 1 Supporting primary care practices & clinicians
- 2 Supporting families
- 3 Integrating mental health services into primary care
- 4 Engaging in related policy & advocacy efforts

The DC Collaborative for Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care aims to improve the integration of mental health in pediatric primary care for children in the District of Columbia. We are committed to addressing the mental health needs of diverse children and their families through culturally competent, family-focused initiatives. We acknowledge the unmet health needs of young children, especially those who have not yet entered school, are great. Although we aim to address the mental health needs of all children and youth, we are particularly focused on infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.



We also strive to evaluate the initiatives in which we are engaged to inform our efforts and assess the potential impact of our work. The following describes several initiatives in greater detail:

Mental Health Access in Pediatrics (DC MAP)

DC MAP is a free mental health consultation program for pediatric primary care providers (PCPs). Providers may call to speak with a mental health specialist Monday-Friday from 9-5pm. The mental health specialist (psychologist, psychiatrist, or social worker) is available to respond promptly to PCPs who need assistance with managing patients' mental health needs. The consultation team provides clinical consultation to enhance PCPs abilities to evaluate, treat, co-manage and refer children with mental health problems. To learn more about DC MAP please visit: <http://www.dcmmap.org/>

Educational Support for Primary Care Clinicians

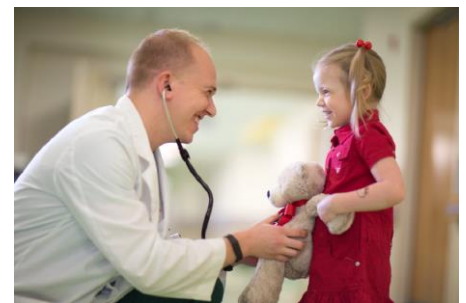
As pediatric care providers are increasingly being called upon to identify and address childhood mental health problems, there is a heightened need to provide complementary educational training. We successfully implemented a 15-month web-enabled Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative with pediatric practices in the District designed to enhance practices' ability to identify and address mental health problems via universal, annual mental health screening.

Mental Health Screening in Primary Care

Consensus is emerging among researchers, professional organizations (e.g., the American Academy of Pediatrics), and policymakers that screening in pediatric primary care can help to increase early identification and treatment of mental health problems. We have been supporting the District's efforts to expand universal, routine mental health screening at pediatric well child visits by making recommendations on screening tools to be used and by providing consultation related to screening implementation.

Child Mental Health Resource Guide

PCPs cite lack of access to up-to date mental health resources to which they can refer families as a major barrier to providing high quality care. The Collaborative created a Child & Adolescent Mental Health Resource Guide for pediatric primary care clinicians in the Washington DC area. To ensure that the guide accurately reflects the mental health landscape, we update this guide regularly. It is available at: www.dchealthcheck.net



We strive to find ways to ensure that the initiatives described above have a long-lasting impact on children and families in the District. Thus, we work to identify and address policy and financing barriers, and we advocate for changes to further the integration of mental health in pediatric primary care.

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- AmeriHealth DC
- CentroNia
- Children's National Health System
- DC Action for Children
- DC Advisory Neighborhood Commission
- DC Behavioral Health Association
- DC Child and Family Services Agency
- DC Council Representative
- DC Department of Behavioral Health
- DC Home Visiting Council
- DC Primary Care Association
- DC Public Schools
- Evidence-Based Associates
- Family Voices of DC
- Georgetown University
- Fight for Children
- First Home Care: Richard Baker, LICSW
- George Washington University
- Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc
- Howard University
- InSite Solutions, LLD
- Mary's Center
- MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
- National Children's Center Inc
- Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
- Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- Parent Representative
- Postpartum Support International
- Psychiatric Institute of Washington
- Student Support Center
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Total Family Care Coalition
- Unity Health Care
- Zero to Three
- Additional Community Members

Who We Are

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Working Group

- DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Children's National Health System
- Children's Law Center
- DC Department of Health
- DC Department of Health Care Finance
- DC Department of Behavioral Health
- Georgetown University
- University of Maryland

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