



**BEACON Council** is an evolving statewide public/private partnership which enables and facilitates collaboration among more than 21 key children's provider organizations, four state agencies and a number of children's advocates. BEACON is the acronym for the Best Evidence for Advancing Child Health in Ohio NOW! This partnership encourages and supports initiatives that achieve measurable improvements in children's and adolescents' healthcare and outcomes through improvement science and a Quality Improvement Infrastructure.

The BEACON Council Mission is to improve the quality of care leading to improved health outcomes of care and reduced cost with a special emphasis on Medicaid-eligible children, youth and their families. To improve quality, outcomes and reduce costs requires a strong public/private partnership to support projects targeted to important health issues; the establishment of a sustainable, quality improvement infrastructure; and collaboration.

### ***Concerned About Development Initiative, including the Autism Diagnosis Education Pilot Program***

This project aims to measurably improve outcomes for young children in Ohio through the identification, evaluation, referral and treatment of children at risk for or with delayed development, autism, and social emotional concerns. Efforts included raising public awareness of early signs of autism and delayed development, improving screening in primary care practices, coordination of medical diagnosis and enhancing access to evidence-based services such as HelpMeGrow. **96 engaged primary care practices (more than 900 clinicians)** have built a foundation for future improvement efforts and significantly increased rates of screening.

### ***Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC)***

This statewide effort aims, through the use of improvement science, to reduce preterm births and improve outcomes of preterm newborns as quickly as possible. Efforts involved the development of a statewide network infrastructure to support improvement activities. Initial projects focus on reducing bloodstream infections in hospitalized premature infants (24 NICUs) and near term deliveries without medical indications (20 OB units). **These projects reduced infections and NICU admissions with an estimated savings to Ohio of at least \$11 million in annual total costs.**

### ***Addressing the Childhood Obesity Epidemic***

Several initiatives address the pediatric obesity epidemic in Ohio, where one-third of all children are overweight or obese. Building on a pilot project with 15 primary care practices, the Ohio chapters of the AAP and OCHA are working to implement screening and care processes in primary care settings that promote healthy activity and nutrition. A website, toolkits, patient handouts, one-hour trainings, and in-depth work with 26 primary care practices and community health centers is underway, integrating the Ounce of Prevention program. An assessment regarding how to incorporate BMI assessment and feedback into the EHR is also underway.

### ***Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS)***

All 8 children's hospitals in Ohio are participating in this project to improve outcomes in surgical site infections and medication safety. This important work is funded by Cardinal Health and the Ohio Business Roundtable. So far, this project has resulted in a 60% reduction in surgical site infections in designated procedures and a 34.5% reduction in overall adverse drug events. **This has saved an estimated 3,576 children from unnecessary harm and over \$5.2 million in health care costs.**

### ***Pediatric Psychiatry Network (PPN)***

For primary care physicians throughout Ohio, the Pediatric Psychiatry Network provides access through a toll-free telephone number 24/7 to child and adolescent psychiatry decision support, education and triage services to help diagnose and treat their patients with psychiatric issues.

**Additional Projects** that are underway or being designed include:

- Maximizing enrollment of Medicaid eligible children & maintaining stability of coverage
- Managed care well child screening initiative
- Help Me Grow-Home Visiting, including maternal depression screening
- System of Care for Kids Mental Health; including early childhood consultation, juvenile justice and other components

**All of these projects employ the following tenets, which we believe are essential to improving outcomes for children:**

- Work with practitioners to improve care at the front-lines
- Use quality improvement science methods to accelerate and sustain changes in care and outcomes
- Utilize data to identify gaps in children's care and outcome
- Address and inform change at the family, practice, system, and policy level
- Build on the strengths of partners to achieve impact and broad range

### **COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE CARE FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN**

- Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
- Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Voices for Ohio's Children
- Ohio Children's Hospital Association
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Mental Health
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Ohio
- Government Resource Center, Ohio State University
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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