Patient-Centered Medical Home – Kids (PCMH-Kids): Creating a Statewide Pediatric Care Transformation Initiative

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Children's health provides the foundation for lifelong physical and mental health, wellness, and prevention of chronic disease in adulthood. Building a strong foundation for the community's health is an investment. Because the consequences of poor health in childhood are most often only manifest in adulthood, it becomes easy to overlook the opportunities inherent in a strong primary care system for children.

Parents, grandparents and other caregivers play a critical role in fostering the health of their children. Likewise, the health of families raising children depends on community and state systems to be healthy – home visiting, child welfare, early intervention programs, preschools and schools, for example. Creating a program to help transform pediatric care to better address these needs and to function in an environment driven by value-based payment has been an exciting challenge.

This issue of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* (RIMJ) chronicles the development and implementation of a statewide initiative, Patient-Centered Medical Homes for Kids (PCMH-Kids), which now impacts the health care of nearly 100,000, or half of the children living in Rhode Island.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In the first article, **DRS. PATRICIA FLANAGAN** and **ELIZABETH LANGE** describe the development of this statewide initiative and the experience and results of the aggregated practices in cohorts 1 and 2.

The second article by **PUTNEY PYLES, BSN**, and colleagues at Healthcentric Advisors provides an overview of the role of the pediatric practice coaches in facilitating transformation and reflects on the work they led in PCMH-Kids. Strong pediatric-focused facilitation was a critical element of successful transformation.

Article 3 by **DR. CAROL LEWIS** and colleagues describes the transformation of a large, low-income, pediatric teaching practice. The education setting provides both challenges and opportunities, as does the complexity of a primary care clinic in a large urban hospital and a predominantly Medicaid-insured population. Integration of behavioral health (BH) into pediatric primary care was a key focus of PCMH-Kids. BH needs in children present as pre-clinical or subclinical findings, and presents emerging social-emotional challenges for children and parents. Embedding BH supports into each practice was transformational. Integrated Behavioral Health is described by **DR. ALLISON HEINLY**, **ELIZABETH BOGUS, LCSW**, et al in article 4.

Finally, article 5 is a conversation with **DR. JUDITH WESTRICK** and colleagues, providing a window into the PCMH-Kids experience in a private practice pediatric setting.

Guest Editors

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