Health Care for Children in Foster Care In Maine

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CATCH Grant- 2008
Assessed access to medical care for children in foster care in the Bangor area.
Piloted a clinic to provide initial medical screens and comprehensive assessments

CATCH
Community Access to Child Health

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
(PL 110-351)
Make reasonable efforts to place siblings together
Notify adult relatives of child’s removal from parents within 30 days
Requires states to address educational stability
Requires states to develop plan for oversight and coordination of health care services

https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/federal/fosteringconnections/
Key Clinic

- 951 foster children seen for Comprehensive Health Assessment
- Average Age 4.7 years
- 64% < 5 yr
- 44% Placed with Kin
- 41% Drug affected (DAB / NAS)
Maine Citizen Review Panel

- CRP assesses Maine’s Child Protective Services and makes recommendations when necessary.
- Comprised of volunteer citizens; mandated under CAPTA
- Spring 2014: CRP work group develops recommendations for health care of children in foster care.

LD 213: An Act To Ensure the Comprehensive Medical, Dental, Educational and Behavioral Assessment of Children Entering State Custody

1. Physical examination required. The department shall ensure that a child ordered into its custody receives an appointment for a medical examination by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner within 10 working days after the department’s custody of the child commences.

2. Psychological assessment. If the physician or nurse practitioner who performs a physical examination pursuant to subsection 1 determines that a psychological assessment of the child is appropriate, the department shall ensure that an appointment is obtained for such an assessment within 30 days of the physical examination.

3. Medical, dental, behavioral and educational assessment. The department shall obtain relevant records and ensure that a child ordered into its custody is referred for a comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral and educational assessment meeting the standards of a national academy of pediatrics within 30 days after the department’s custody of the child commences.

LD 213

Passed in House 3/8/2016
Passed in the Senate 3/9/2016
Vetoed by Governor 3/29/2016
Veto overridden in the Senate 3/29/2016
Veto sustained in the House 3/30/2016

Health Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care Chapter Project
**Maine Foster Care Committee**

Members:
- Pediatricians with foster care expertise (3)
- General pediatrician (1)
- AAP Chapter President

Meetings:
- Two committee conference calls
- One conference call with state leadership of Child Welfare Department

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**MAAP Foster Care Survey**

Objective:
- Assess pediatric providers’ awareness of health care needs of children in foster care
- Determine the frequency and timeliness of current foster care assessments
- Determine ability to accommodate rapid requests for visits
- Use survey as a tool to educate providers and provide resources (using links)

40 responses, currently compiling results

82% of providers report that they are unfamiliar with the AAP recommendations or would need to reference them before administering care.
Educational Materials

Timelines
Educate families and providers on timeline of care (Will be) Available on webpage

Medical Care Timeline: Foster Children in Maine

Resource Webpage for the MAAP site
Educational Materials

Timelines
Educate families and providers on timelines of care
(WEB sex Available on webpage

Resource Webpage for the MAAP site

Presentations
Foster Parents: Spring Conference at AFFM
Child Welfare Case Workers: DHHS training
Medical Providers: Maine Chapter conference (fall and spring)
“Tips for Foster Parents: Healthcare and Navigating the System” Handout

Chapter Grant:
Initial proposed project, including goals and objectives
1. Reinforce established relationships with private and public partners e.g., MaineCare, OCFS, etc.
2. Establish a Maine Chapter of the AAP Foster Care Committee to collaborate with the Maine state agencies and medical practices throughout the state
3. Develop a survey to determine the frequency and timeliness of current foster care assessments and identify a documentation template for acute visits
4. Develop an educational template for an initial assessment that aligns with WASH level coding
5. Increase provider and stakeholder awareness of the value of the 72 hour assessment as well as the Comprehensive Health Assessment
6. Increase provider and stakeholder awareness of the availability and access to comprehensive assessments available throughout the state, including:
   - Spurwink, PREP Clinic and Child Abuse Evaluation program
   - Edmund N. Ervin Pediatric Center
   - Key Clinic, Penobscot Community Health Center
7. Collaborate with the OCFS to create a comprehensive health assessment service available throughout the state, including:
   - Spurwink, PREP Clinic and Child Abuse Evaluation program
   - Edmund N. Ervin Pediatric Center
8. Facilitate the gathering of medical records of Foster Children
9. Produce outreach materials to inform families of the importance of early medical care and comprehensive assessments
10. Facilitate coordination of sharing medical information while in foster care
11. Develop a negotiated rate with Medicaid (MaineCare) and OCFS for such services
12. Create a website and social media sites to aid in the education of Maine’s foster families, child welfare workers and medical providers about the importance of early medical care and comprehensive assessments
13. Submit grants working with OCFS to help sustain the 72-hour and comprehensive assessments for every child entering foster care
Resources
Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine [http://affm.net]
Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 [https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/federal/fosteringconnections/]
AAP Policy Statement [http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/22/peds.2015-2655.abstract]
Adopt US Kids [www.adoptuskids.org]
Center for Youth Wellness [www.centerforyouthwellness.org]
Kids Count Data Center [www.datacenter.kidscount.org]
Foster America [www.fosteramerica.org]
Maine AAP [www.maineapp.org]

Additional Resources

Thank you!

@MeAAP_FC
http://twitter.com/meaap_fc