

Child Development Screening Initiative

A Presentation for The Florida Children and
Youth Cabinet



Presenters:

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What is Child Development Screening?

- Screening refers to a brief procedure designed to identify children who should receive more intensive assessment or diagnosis
- Screening helps identify delays that can respond to therapy and other interventions.
- Child Assessment is a more thorough, systematic procedure using standardized tools to identify the specific needs of a child for the purpose of intervention.



The Policy Group Report and Recommendations

Impetus for Original Study:

- There are a variety of screening tools and processes in use across agencies and programs
- Many children do not receive screening that addresses the full range of capabilities
- Too often individuals administering screenings are not adequately trained
- Referrals for assessment and diagnosis may not be made or take an extended amount of time
- Agencies and programs often do not share screening and assessment findings



Recommendations adopted by the Cabinet

- Create a system of standardized child screening tools, processes and procedures
- Increase the availability and access to screening that is comprehensive across the range of developmental, health, environmental and family functioning
- Increase the effectiveness of screenings by increasing the knowledge and skills of those that administer screenings
- Increase the screening of the most vulnerable children who have high probability of developmental delays, disabilities, and special health care needs
- Increase the number of children with special needs and their families who receive consistent early intervention and supports



How do we address these needs?

- Current FDDC project builds on the recommendations for child developmental screening adopted by the Children's Cabinet
 - Plan of Action included creating a task force to guide implementation of recommendations
- Other groups have identified the need for a more coordinated system of developmental screening (Florida, CDC, RWJ Foundation)



Goal of this Initiative

Develop recommendations and policy changes needed to implement a comprehensive statewide system for the developmental screening of children aged zero to five



Plan of Action

- Establish Statewide Task Force
- 25 members represent families and professionals
 - Three Workgroups:
 - System of Care
 - Electronic System
 - Follow-up Services



Plan of Action

- Review current system of child screening in Florida and other states (done)
- Develop and endorse menu of recommended screening tools (done)
- Create and facilitate interagency agreements for agencies to use the recommended screening tools (in progress)



Plan of Action

- Develop criteria for using recommended screening tools and **guidelines for a referral and follow-up process**
- Make recommendations to remove barriers for providers who wish to increase their screening efforts
- Market the availability of child screenings directly to the public

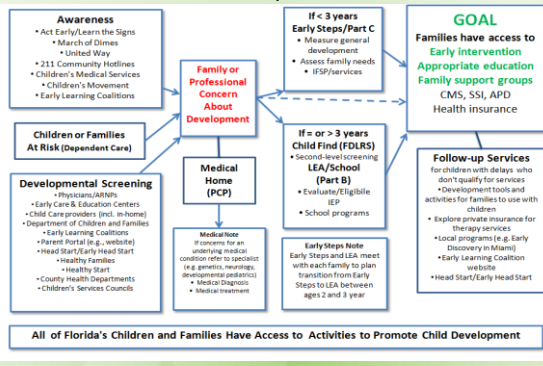


Timeline of Events

- 2011 – Task Force established and research completed
- 2012 – Menu of tools endorsed, System of Care framework (next slide), Executed interagency agreements
- 2013/2014 – Increase use of screening tools with parents, health care providers, early care/education; **advocate for coordinated system of care**



A Model for Screening, Assessment, and Intervention for Atypical Development



Future

10 Recommendations by the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America (AmJPrevMed 2011)

1. Ensure that all children have high-quality early childhood developmental support

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