

### **SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS**

Innovative Approaches (IA) Strategies at Work

GRANVILLE/VANCE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

# Implementation of a Medical Home Promotion Resource Fair and Special Olympics Healthy Athletes MedFest -Changing Policy and Practice at the Local Level

Granville and Vance Counties are 2 of the 14 North Carolina counties selected to participate in the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Children and Youth Branch's Innovative Approaches Initiative. Innovative Approaches serves to improve the service system for children and youth with special health care needs (up to age 21) through collaborations and partnerships with parents of children and youth with special needs (CYSHCN), medical providers, and community agencies.

Data collection measures initiated by Cardinal Health Innovations, the managed care organization (MCO) serving Granville and Vance Counties, identified coordinated and comprehensive care within the medical home as a priority issue. On the Granville-Vance IA Family Survey, 37% of parents indicated that their child received a well-child check-up within the last twelve months, while 82% of parents reported that they have and often see the doctor/specialist specific to the CYSHCNs specific diagnosis/condition. Cardinal Innovations noted that CYSHCN are seeing specialists consistently, but they are not utilizing primary care doctors as the medical home. Children and their families who have a medical home receive the care that they need from a pediatrician or pediatric health care professional whom they know and trust. The professionals and families act as partners in a medical home to identify and access all the medical and non-medical services needed to help children and their families achieve their maximum potential. Due to the concern over the low number of families of CYSHCN who reported utilizing a medical home, community partners piloted a Medical Home Promotion Resource Fair in conjunction with a Special Olympics Healthy Athletes MedFest event.

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes MedFest is an event that seeks to expand the playing field for sports training and competition by providing a free comprehensive sports physical for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympic athletes are required to have initial and requalification physical exams. Led by volunteer physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and medical students, the MedFest screening consists of medical history, height and weight, blood pressure, cardiology test, musculoskeletal test, orthopedic tests, and an abdominal evaluation. The Medical Home Promotion Resource Fair event served to build upon typical MedFest events that Special Olympics hosts, by adding local services, vendors, educational resources, and offering face to face contact with agencies that serve the special needs population.

The initial Medical Home Promotion Resource Fair/MedFest event was a collaboration among Cardinal Innovations (MCO), Special Olympics, and the Granville-Vance Health Department. Innovative Approaches assisted with this event by connecting Cardinal Innovations and Special Olympics to Granville-Vance IA Steering Committee members including Dr. Shauna Guthrie, Family Medicine and Primary Care Provider for Granville-Vance Health District, and Lisa Harrison, Director of Granville-Vance District Health Department. The connection to Granville-Vance District Health Department provided the medical staff needed to perform the physical exams. In addition, the local

health department coordinated the connection to a primary care doctor if needed and provided education on services provided by the health department. Innovative Approaches also assisted with promotion of the event and encouraged families of CYSHCN from both Granville and Vance counties to participate in the resource/vendor fair.

The MedFest event was held at the Vance County Health Department on October 28, 2016, and offered participants the opportunity to receive an annual physical on site from the Granville-Vance Health Department. Due to Granville-Vance Health Department being a district, medical staff from both the Granville location and Vance location, were on site at the Vance Health Department to provide services. In addition, the support of a 1:1 case manager with Cardinal Innovations was offered to link each participant with a Primary Care Provider/medical home in network which included Granville-Vance District Health Department as an option. Health and physical activity opportunities on the local and state level were promoted by an onsite Special Olympics representative from Vance Parks and Recreation. In an attempt to reduce barriers for potential participants, the physical offered onsite met the requirements needed to participate in Special Olympics

Vance County Schools, Vance County Department of Social Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, local group homes for adults with special health care needs, Mariah Parham Medical Center, and Warren County Senior Center were also on site to share information and resources with families of CYSHCN and adults with special health care needs. In FY 16-17, this project was piloted in Vance County. Another event is planned for FY 17-18 with plans to serve both Vance and Granville counites. Services at the event are available to CYSHN and adults with special health care needs.

## National Maternal and Child Health Bureau Performance Measure:

All Children and Youth with special health care needs will receive coordinated, ongoing, and comprehensive care within a medical home.

# WHY DID YOU SELECT THIS APPROACH?

- 1. Coordination of care is a priority issue for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as noted in the policy statement "Patient- and Family-Centered Care Coordination: A Framework for Integrating Care for Children and Youth Across Multiple Systems." It is noted on the AAP Medical Home website that "Coordinated care is not something that occurs solely within the walls of medical practice. Efficient communication and coordination with appropriate community services and other providers or clinicians can optimize health outcomes and decrease fragmented care."
- 2. Addresses the Health People 2020 goal (MICH-30) of increasing the proportion of children, including those with special health care needs, who have access to a medical home.
- 3. This approach ties in with the 2020 Healthy People Goal (DH-4) of reducing the proportion of people with disabilities who report delays in receiving primary and periodic preventive care due to specific barriers.

## **RESULTS**

18 parents of CYSHCN indicated satisfaction with the location, access, and resources available at the Health Fair.

50 CYSHCN age eight and up signed up for Special Olympics in Vance County.

18 YSHCN from Northern Vance High School attended the Resource Fair to learn about resources necessary to make appropriate transitions.

50 action plans completed 1:1 with participants and a care manager from Cardinal Innovations, which included goals and activities to reach individual physical, emotional and mental health. Of the 50 actions plans completed, 18 were CYSHCN under age 21.

#### RELATED COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Health and Fitness is one of Special Olympics North Carolina's key components in their 2016-2020 strategic plan. In addition to MedFest, other healthy athlete disciplines in NC include FunFitness, Health Promotions, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Special Smiles, and the Strong Minds, Strong Bodies programs. Additional information on these programs can be found via <a href="http://sonc.net/about-us/health-wellness/">http://sonc.net/about-us/health-wellness/</a>.

# TIMELINE/KEY MILESTONES

August 2016: Cardinal Innovations and Special Olympics reached out to Granville-Vance Innovative Approaches to discuss hosting a Health Fair/MedFest event.

September 2016: Event partners meet to narrow down vendors/community resources to invite to the Health Fair. Cardinal Innovations sends invitation to families of CYSHCNs to attend the Health Fair as well as sign up for a medical exam. Granville-Vance Health District and Special Olympics collaborate to review health exam form for Special Olympics that would be completed during exams at the Health Fair/MedFest.

October 2016: IA Coordinator invites IA Parent Advisory Council to attend the resource/vendor fair portion of the Health Fair/MedFest event. First Annual Health Fair/MedFest for Vance County held on October 28, 2016 at the Vance County Health Department.

# **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Cardinal Innovations
Local Group Homes
Special Olympics of Vance County
Vance County Schools
Warrenton Senior Center

Granville-Vance District Health Department (GVDHD) Special Olympics of NC Vance County Department of Social Services Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Vance County

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

This event required collaboration across programs, providers, and the community serving CYSHCN to provide information regarding the importance of a medical home and annual exams. Families of CYSHCN participating in this event demonstrated an eagerness to access services and learn about available community resources. Hosting the event in a central location was essential for families of CYSHCN to participate. Starting this project as a small pilot in Vance County allowed for learning what worked well in a controlled environment. Lesson learned will be used to grow the event into an annual event targeted at additional participants and offer a broader array of resources.

# PROJECT IMPACT ON FAMILIES OF CYSHCN

"I feel that it is great that GVDHD was able to partner with Special Olympics of NC and Cardinal Innovations with the support of so many vital community agencies, to provide services and awareness to CYSHCN! Too often, this is a group that is sometimes hidden or ignored, and we as a community are working together with the support of IA to change this. It is my hope that this event will serve as one of many to come! I am even more hopeful that the CYSCHNs and their families who attended the event, and even those who may not have been able to attend, will see the local health department as a resource, provider, and support, that is for EVERYONE." – Dr. Shauna Guthrie MD, MPH (Medical Director; GVDHD)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on the North Carolina Innovative Approaches Initiative, please contact:

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