

CHDI has undertaken the following activities in support of partnerships between Enhanced Care Clinics and primary care practices, as outlined in the March 18<sup>th</sup> Provider Bulletin released by DSS, **Primary Care/Behavioral Health Requirements for Enhanced Care Clinics under the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership:**

#### **Grant program**

- Funded 4 primary care sites (Bridgeport Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, Pediatric Associates of Bristol, and North Haven Community Health Center) in 2007 to begin integrating care with an ECC in their area
- Added dollars in 2008 for 2 sites to address screening and connection to services for mothers who are depressed

#### **Training**

- Held session with Connecticut Community Providers Association in April 08 for ECCs. Program included a short presentation on the culture of primary care pediatrics followed by commentaries from 2 of our grantees (Bristol and Fair Haven).
- Sponsored a conference on July 24<sup>th</sup> for ECCs and their primary care practice partners to give behavioral health clinicians and primary care providers tools to facilitate their collaboration in the care of children. Twenty-eight ECCs were represented, and several came with their pediatric partners. The program included four workshops addressing administrative issues (billing, liability), medication management, models of collaborative care, and behavioral health/primary care communication.
- Collaborating with Wheeler Clinic with funding from DMHAS, to train ECCs to in turn train primary care providers in 4 areas: screening, brief counseling for issues that are within normal developmental themes, referral to behavioral health resources, and ongoing involvement in care. We expect this work to begin later this summer.
- Through Educating Practices in the Community (EPIC), disseminating a presentation for primary care physicians on connecting kids to services under the CT-BHP. The ValueOptions Regional Managers have been visiting pediatric and family medicine practices with information on the CT-BHP. They also are active in connecting ECCs to primary care practices for implementation of the DSS policy.

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**Evaluation**

- Supporting a faculty member from the University of Hartford Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology to develop baseline information about how pediatricians address behavioral issues and their relationships with behavioral health clinicians
- Will follow up 1 year after implementation of the policy (September 09) to detect any changes in pediatricians' experiences from the baseline as well as compare those in partnerships to those who are not
- Will also include interviews with providers for the 1 year follow-up assessment of the ECC/PC collaborations
- Will perform chart audits in 2010 to determine how care has changed for children in primary care setting as a result of ECC/PC partnerships

**Publications (available online at [www.chdi.org](http://www.chdi.org) or call 860 679-1519)**

- *Addressing Maternal Depression: Opportunities in the Pediatric Setting* (May 2008)
- *IMPACT: How Primary Care Providers Respond to Children's Mental Health Needs: Strategies and Barriers* (April 2007)
- *Behavioral Health Services in Pediatric Primary Care: Meeting the Needs in Connecticut* (September 2006)