

Updated Evaluation Plan

Healthy Babies Kids & Families Expansion Grant

Submitted by **Judith S. Shaw RN, MPH and Annette Rexroad, PhD, MPH**
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The evaluation of the Commonwealth Fund Assuring Better Child Development (ABCD) Healthy Babies Kids & Families (HBK&F) Expansion Grant will be conducted by the Department of Pediatrics, University of Vermont, under the direction of Judith S. Shaw RN, MPH, Director, Vermont Child Health Improvement Project (VCHIP). VCHIP has hired a Program Evaluator, Annette Rexroad, PhD, MPH who will be responsible for developing and conducting all aspects of the evaluation for this program.

The evaluation of this project will focus primarily on documenting the process by which the services are administered. Although the four ultimate goals of this work are to improve the delivery of developmental services to young, vulnerable children, change Medicaid policies and practices, improve providers' delivery of child developmental services, and to improve parental knowledge about child development, the evaluation plan for this three year project is aimed at better understanding the process of implementing a statewide initiative aimed at improving developmental services delivery. A core value of this work is as a learning community, to structure these efforts so that there is continual improvement. Thus we will use the evaluation process to continually refine this work, to measure the process and, where applicable, to document the impact of this work on the target population in an effort to assess the progress of this work.

In general, quantitative and qualitative methods will be used, when appropriate, to benchmark other programs to assess the strengths and limitations of this project. The experiences of practices, practitioners, and families with these HBK&F services will be measured through formal evaluation (e.g., survey) and less formal approaches. Progress toward the goals will be assessed through collection and reporting of data about:

- Improved health outcomes in participating populations of children
- Number of children reached
- Number of practices and clinicians reached
- Changes in providers' approach to working with families
- Satisfaction of families enrolled in HBKF
- Increased rate of inquiries and referrals

To achieve these evaluation goals, the VCHIP staff will provide project evaluation support. VCHIP staff will call on the expertise of the Northwestern ABCD Evaluation Team throughout this process. Consultation with Northwestern will occur around survey design, data collection instruments, data entry and development and refinement of the overall Vermont evaluation plan. To support these efforts, the VCHIP evaluation team will include a director, program evaluator, research assistant and administrative assistant. The description of each of these roles is elucidated below:

Judith Shaw, RN, MPH, Director, 10%, Ms. Shaw is the Director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Project (VCHIP) and Research Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College

of Medicine. As Director to the grant, she is responsible for the overall direction and success of the evaluation. Ms. Shaw will bring her expertise in program development, her experience in implementing a comprehensive preventive services program in the state of Vermont, and her considerable knowledge of design and implementation of systems to improve care to children. Ms. Shaw will oversee project staff for the duration of the evaluation.

Annette Rexroad, PhD, MPH, Program Evaluator, 30%, The Program Evaluator will be responsible for modifying and implementing process evaluation instruments and procedures for this project. This will require the review of existing data and the design of measurement tools for monitoring the process and outcomes throughout the project. The Program Evaluator will work closely with the Health Babies Expansion Team to coordinate the evaluation process, providing guidance throughout the project to insure that the programs implemented are designed in a way to support evaluation. The Program Evaluator will be responsible for coordinating and implementing surveys, overseeing coding and transfer of information, and maintaining evaluation documentation and data files. The Program Evaluator will provide guidance for the overall evaluation of the project over the three years.

Rebecca Dixon, Project Manager, 10%, The Project Manager will assist with the preparation of materials, data collection tools and reports. S/he will coordinate the dissemination and collection of surveys and other data instruments along with data entry during the project period. The Project Manager will prepare and communicate the overall evaluation schedule to all participants, and ensure that evaluation tasks are completed and documented according to the schedule.

Amy Kelly, Administrative Assistant, 5%, Support for the administrative core activities are requested for office operations, human resource management and contracting through all three project years.

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