



# Locating Community-Based Services for Children and Families

## **Alabama: Assuring Better Child Health and Development**

ABCD Project Funded by:

*The Commonwealth Fund*

Administered and Supported by: The National  
Academy for Health Care Policy

September 26, 2007

Theresa Pinto, TSU Sponsored Programs

Alice Widgeon, ADMH/MR

# Objectives

- ◆ Provide key community-based stakeholders with information about the ABCD Screening Academy and Alabama's participation
- ◆ To identify generic and specialized community resources for families and children, birth to five years
- ◆ To identify at least one role for participant involvement in the local ABCD Demonstration Project

# ABCD Screening Academy:


- ✓ National consortium
- ✓ Supports efforts of 18 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to implement policy and practice change
- ✓ Designed to move standardized developmental screening from best practice to standard of practice as part of well-child care
- ✓ 15 month initiative that began in April 2006 (Alabama)

# ABCD Initiative Goals

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- ◆ To strengthen states' capacity to deliver care that supports young children's healthy development
- ◆ By identifying and implementing policy and systems changes that support the provision of preventive and early intervention care by medical providers

# Alabama Core Team Members

- ◆ Kim Davis-Allen, Medicaid
- ◆ Dr. Madeleine Blancher, Physician
- ◆ Cathy Caldwell, DPH, SCHIP
- ◆ Alice Widgeon, DMH/MR, Early Intervention
- ◆ Debbie Flournoy, Medicaid
- ◆ Kim Hill, ADRS-Alabama's Early Intervention System
- ◆ Steve LaFreniere, DMH/MR
- ◆ Linda Lee, AL AAP
- ◆ Gail Piggott, AL Partners for Children 
- ◆ Sharis LeMay, DPH, Healthy Child Care Alabama
- ◆ Teri Pinto, TU, Sponsored Programs
- ◆ Ava Rozelle, DPH, SCHIP
- ◆ Dianne Sims, DPH, Children's Health

# The American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement Recommends that:

- ◆ Developmental surveillance be performed at every preventive visit
  - ◆ A screening tool should be administered at 9-, 18-, and 24 or 30-month visits and for those children whose surveillance yields concerns about delayed or disordered development
- Demonstration Project will also perform an additional screen at 4 years

# What is Developmental Screening?

*NASHP* defines developmental screening as the administration of a brief, standardized tool that aids the identification of children at risk of a developmental delay.

*Developmental Pediatrics Online* adds that screening refers to the use of measures with proven reliability and validity that are administered in a standardized, i.e., uniform, way. **Further, the purpose extends to marshalling any needed resources and ideally eliminating or ameliorating difficulties.**

<http://www.dbpeds.org/articles/detail.cfm?TextID=139>

# Maternal Depression

- ◆ Depression in mothers is associated with the occurrence of developmental problems in their young children including
  - ✓ impaired cognitive function,
  - ✓ depression, and
  - ✓ behavioral problems.
- ◆ Depression may also affect mothers' confidence and parenting skills.
- ◆ Addressing maternal depressive symptoms has been shown to improve behavioral outcomes for both mothers and children.... *Addressing Maternal Depression: A Screening Project*

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/grants/grants\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=222702](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/grants/grants_show.htm?doc_id=222702)



# Background: Prevalence of Developmental Conditions

◆ **Developmental delays/disabilities are common: affect at least 10% of children**

◆ **Early Delays:**

Autism

1 in 150 children

Global Delays

2-3 in 100 children

Speech & language disorders

5-10 in 100 children

◆ **Later Conditions/disabilities:**

Intellectual disability (MR)

2-3 in 100 children

Learning disabilities (LD)

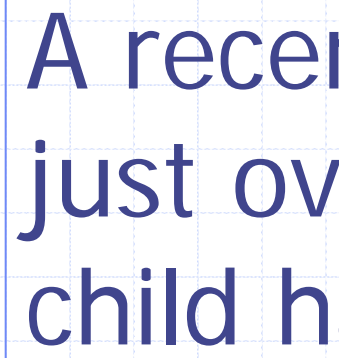
6 in 100 children

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder 5-10 in 100 children

*ABCD Screening Academy Learning Session, July 2007. Sices, Lipkin, and Earls.*

Although such children are twice as likely to seek health care as children without disabilities, only 20% to 30% of these children are detected prior to school entrance.

*(<http://www.cmwf.org>)*



A recent national survey found that just over half of parents say their child has ever had a developmental assessment during a pediatric visit.

*<http://www.cmwf.org>*

# Importance of Early Intervention

- ◆ First 3 years of life are critical to brain development\*
- ◆ Brain is most adaptable in childhood
- ◆ Early treatment is most effective for developmental conditions

\*Shonkoff JP, Phillips DA, eds. From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development; 2000

*ABCD Screening Academy  
Learning Session, July 2007. Sices, Lipkin, Earls*

# Model:

## **EARLY IDENTIFICATION**

### **EARLY ACTION**

(assessment and treatment)

(information to parents; educational services; therapies, etc)

## **IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- Improved development
- Better behavior
- Improved school readiness
- Increased likelihood of high school graduation

# The “**A****B****C****D**” Model

- (1) Develop a “best practices” comprehensive community model for replication (*two major components*):
- Introduction & integration of a standardized, validated screening tool (ASQ) at selected well-child visits, that is practical and that works;
  - Collaboration with local and state agency staff and families in developing this system for identifying and serving children.

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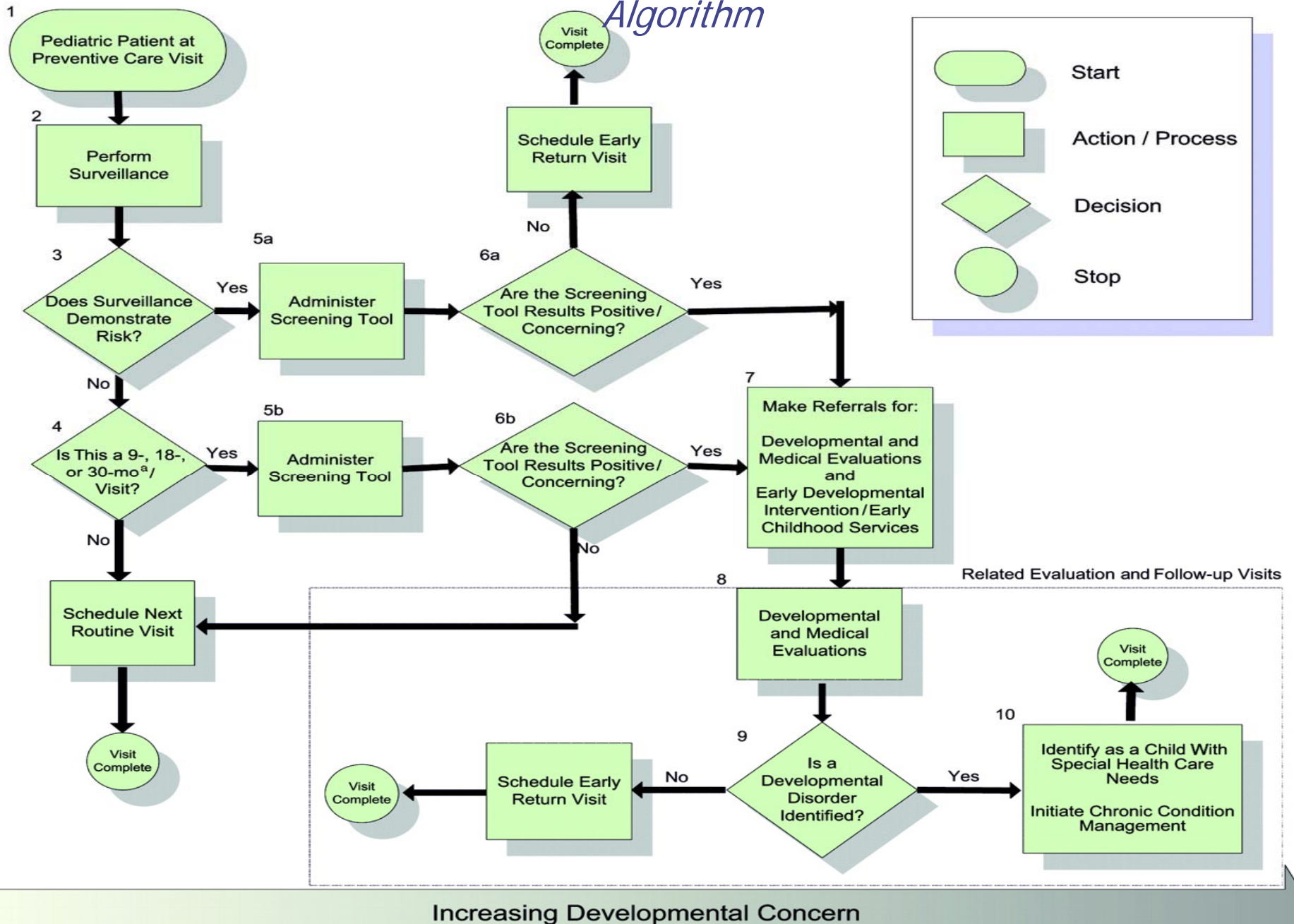
# Physician Champion

## Key Characteristics

- Passionate about the issues
- Practicing vs. academic
- Participates in professional association meetings
- Advocates for children's issues with Medicaid/Public Health/Mental Health
- Understands the infrastructure

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# American Academy of Pediatrics: Developmental and Screening Algorithm





# **Build on Existing Infrastructure**

- Identify systems of care
- “Drive” activity locally vs. from state
- “Test” ideas starting small
- Revise and define “best practices”
- Build relationships with partners who invest in quality improvement

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# Evaluate/Report Data

- ◆ Define process and outcome measures
- ◆ Evaluate performance
- ◆ Report performance to funders/partners

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Burt Richardson, Pediatrician, Maine



# Linkages: A Closer Look

- ◆ Connects child to needed services and supports
- ◆ Stays connected to child
- ◆ Indicates the act of connecting the child and family to needed developmental services and supports, whether within the practice setting or beyond

A. Fine and R. Mayer, *Beyond Referral Pediatric Care Linkages to Improve Developmental Health*

# Linkages to other public programs for children and families

- ◆ Title V MCH primary child health care
- ◆ Title V Children with Social Health Care Needs (CSHCN)
- ◆ EPSDT (MCOs) Care Coordinators
- ◆ Child Welfare, particularly foster care
- ◆ IDEA, Part C Early Intervention
- ◆ IDEA, Part B Preschool and School-age Special Education
- ◆ Early Care and Education/Head Start

Kay Johnson, ABCD Screening Academy, July 2007

# A Service Provider Partnership Strategy: Networking and Information Sharing

Service Provider Networking and Information Sharing *sets the stage for collaborative efforts to discover what is available in the community and to uncover and address gaps in services*

*Let's Begin!*