

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INNOVATION PROJECT (CHIP)

Synopsis

The CPEP at St Joseph's Hospital Health Center has received a three-year federal grant to address the mental health needs of children and youth in the greater Syracuse area. The Children's Health Innovation Project (CHIP) is working to address the needs of these children and their families for behavioral and mental health services in primary care and other community settings.

Discussions with primary care practitioners who treat children reveal a number of challenges in meeting the mental health care needs of their patients in an era of pressure for increased efficiency and of decreased availability of mental health specialists serving children. Pediatricians, family practitioners and other primary care practitioners report that they, by default, are providing mental health care for children who would be more appropriately served by someone with a more specialized background.

The CHIP project is addressing these issues using a number of strategies:

- Provide ongoing training in evidenced-based practices in children's mental health for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and other professionals in our community.
- Sponsor an annual conference to bring national experts to Syracuse to increase our ability to plan, organize, and provide mental health services to children, youth and their families.
- Work with government agencies and provider organizations to identify gaps in children's mental health services and apply best-practice solutions to filling these gaps.
- Broaden the number and variety of community-based services where children and youth can be referred by both primary care and mental health providers.
- Increase the use of technology in caring for children and youth in both urban and rural settings.

Please contact us with your issues, ideas, recommendations, etc. for improving our system of mental health care for children, youth, and families. Also, please call us to discuss your specific training needs.

