

# Help Me Grow WA Partnership

Unified initiative for Universal Developmental Screening

## E-Update | Spring 2015

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### *Partnership Vision*

*Universal developmental screening and linkages to appropriate services will be available for all young children in Washington State.*

### **New Look, Same Partnership, Same E-Update!**

We are sporting a new look to the UDS Partnership e-update to go along with our new name, "Help Me Grow Washington Partnership." Using Constant Contact for our e-update will streamline our distribution list and relieve some of the manual work of our previous communication tool. We have always received a lot of positive feedback about the e-update, and we hope that this continues to work for you. Please let Carol or Rebecca know if there are any problems with this new e-update system or format. And, as always, let us know of news in your area that we can share via the e-update.

### **Partnership Progress on Shared Measures**

Using a collective impact approach, the Partnership is steadily moving toward identifying shared measures for developmental screening and responsive supports. In February, the Focus & Momentum Team reviewed the Common Agenda and Outcome Map to arrive at potential measures that would provide "north stars" to help align partners, direct action and determine success. Initial shared measure categories included system change, parent awareness, referral and connections, quality and effectiveness, and child impacts. An ad hoc group is refining the category list and developing a list of potential indicators for the Focus & Momentum Team to review at their next meeting in May. The Focus & Momentum Team serves as the steering committee of the Partnership. Co-chairs are [Kathy TeKolste](#) and [Sharon Beaudoin](#).

## Action Teams Are in Motion!

Action teams for the four primary strategies are now meeting monthly. Partners from health, early learning and community services have formed teams and welcome additional partners to help move the work forward. Team work plans include several objectives and strategies that continue to evolve. Current focus of activity is described below. Each of the Action Team chairs work together to communicate and coordinate actions with The Focus & Momentum Team. Action Teams meet monthly and all teams have teleconferencing options. If you are interested in joining, please contact the appropriate individual below.

**Reaching All Children and Families** is working on consistent, high quality statewide training for providers and increasing accessibility of screening tools. Chair: [Roxanne Garzon](#) Meet: 3rd Thursday of the month 9:00-11:00 am

**Providing Responsive Supports and Services** is strengthening the network of services that respond to the needs of children and families, connecting the family to what their child needs after the screening. Chair: [Liz Jaquette](#) Meet: 4th Tuesday of the month 10:00 am-12:00 pm

**Strengthening Systems** is identifying systems at the state and local levels. Investigating how a statewide data system could more efficiently enhance connections so that children and families receive the screening, referrals and support they need.

Nelly Mbajah has changed jobs at her agency (thank you Nelly for your leadership and service to the Partnership!), so the position of chair of this Action Team is currently vacant. Interested? Email [Rebecca Timmen](#). The team continues to meet according to its regular schedule: 4th Friday of the month 9:00-11:00 am

**Improving Policy, Practice, and Funding** is monitoring legislative action regarding (1) Reimbursement for primary care providers for developmental and autism screening and (2) Expanding funding support for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (early intervention). Co-chairs: [Lisa Ibanez](#) and [Carrie Glover](#) Meet: 3rd Wednesday of the month 10:00 am-12:00 pm

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## Early Intervention Feedback Tool Available

Several years ago, Department of Health and Department of Early Learning/ESIT developed a referral form called, [Early Intervention form for Providers Birth to Three](#). This form was a method to communicate between the local primary care doctor and the local early intervention agency. In Thurston County, Dr. Beth Harvey's office piloted this two-way referral system under the Great MINDS grant. The form was highlighted in the Great MINDS trainings and it is available for use by the local intervention staff or local primary care. The resource includes a consent form for parents to sign, along with an explanation of the form for parents. If you already have a form you use, make sure it captures the appropriate data like screening done, tool used, resulting concerning areas, and referral sources given.

### Work on Mobile Devices Receives Recognition

Julie Kientz serves on the Focus & Momentum Team and is a researcher at the University of Washington (UW). She is part of a team of six researchers honored at UW for their work building tools for mobile devices. These tools let patients easily enter data about their health-related habits and behaviors onto a mobile device. This will extend the reach of healthcare beyond the clinic and help physicians make diagnoses and treatment plans.

Go [here for the full article](#).

## Whatcom County's MLDA Project

Congratulations are in order for a strong collaborative effort by Whatcom County and other state partners. They were one of eight nationally selected projects for the 2015 Healthy Tomorrows grant! With this grant, the Arc of Whatcom County will establish a mid-level evaluation system between primary care provider screening and tertiary center diagnostic evaluations. The Mid-Level Developmental Assessment (MLDA) provides a high quality, easily accessible developmental assessment of children ages six months to six years who are struggling within their home and/or school environment.

The MLDA helps clinicians, families, schools and medical providers understand the child and family from a holistic perspective. MLDA provides a comprehensive clinical assessment and developmental testing, assessing all six domains of development: language, cognitive, gross motor, fine motor, self-help and adaptive, social and emotional, and spiritual and moral. Following the initial assessment, providers arrange a feedback session and an integrated family services plan within 30 days. The MLDA enables providers to give appropriate services in a timely fashion, before problems escalate, and to address a family's concerns to bring the child back to a normal developmental trajectory. We look forward to hearing results as Whatcom implements this model within our state.

For more information contact [Gail Bodenmiller](#).

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## Great MINDS Grant Updates

Now that Pat Justis is the Rural Health and Underserved Section manager within the Department of Health, she is breathing new air and funding into the Great MINDS (Medical Homes Include Developmental Screening) project. There are plans to introduce Great MINDS into Rural Health Clinics to focus on standardized developmental screening for birth to three in rural communities. This project will use a blend of Rural Health and Medicaid Managed Care funds. It will allow a continuation of the Washington Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (WCAAP) work focused on Medicaid eligible families in rural communities.

Edna Maddalena is the new Great MINDS coordinator at WCAAP. Bonnie Burlingham is the Rural Health grant manager. Kate Cross continues to be with the Washington Health Improvement Network (WHIN) at the Department of Health in the new section, renamed Community Healthcare Improvement & Linkages (CHIL). Parents of children with special health care needs will continue to work as Great MINDS trainers.

For more information, please contact Kate Cross at 360-236-3463 or [kate.cross@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kate.cross@doh.wa.gov).

### Help Me Grow Featured in New ZERO TO THREE Publication

[Help Me Grow National](#) (HMG) was recently included in the new ZERO TO THREE publication, "[A Place to Get Started: Innovation in Infant and Toddler State Policies](#)." The report shows examples of great practice from several organizations in successful coordination across services that support expectant parents, infants, toddlers and their families.

## Watch Me! Modules

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed four informational training modules to help spread awareness with early childcare educators.

Module 1: *Your Important Role in Monitoring Children's Development* explains why monitoring children's development and identifying developmental concerns early are important.

Module 2: *Understanding Children's Developmental Milestones* addresses why understanding developmental milestones is important.

Module 3: *Effective and Engaged Developmental Monitoring* explains how to help families when there are concerns about development.

Module 4: *How to Talk to Parents about Their Child's Development* covers how to encourage families to talk about their child's development with his or her doctor.

Visit the [CDC for more information](#).

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