Title: Using Online Developmental-Mental Health Measures for Home Visits: Engaging Families, Monitoring Progress and Evaluating Program Success

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Abstract of Session:

Home visits often include screening/evaluation for developmental, social and emotional delays. Screening/evaluation tools should be chosen carefully and in the context of several sensitivities. This session will orientate participants to online developmental-mental health measures for home visits to screen and test for developmental-mental health issues in young developing children.

Learning Objectives:

* Describes evidence-based online developmental-mental health measures for home visits
* Lists how online developmental-mental health measures may be used to engage families, monitor progress, and evaluate program success
* Demonstrates the use of developmental-mental health measures during home visits for screening and testing

Adult Learning Principles: This session will use various methods of instruction including didactic presentation, live demonstration using web site materials, and hands on application using case scenarios.

Audience Level: Intermediate

Types of activities or learning experiences: Brief lecture and demonstration, video, case scenarios

Summary:

Incorporating developmental-mental health screening into services that have routine contact with developing children/families is recommended to monitor and support child development. Rates of developmental-mental health screening remain poor in the US. Fewer than 50% of children with a developmental or a disabling behavioral problem are identified before they enter school and only 5 states in the US meet the standard for frequency of well-child visits in the first year of life. Home visiting programs aim to improve coordination of services for at-risk communities and identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for these families. Home visits often include screening and evaluation for developmental, social and emotional delays. Screening and evaluation tools should be chosen carefully and in the context of several sensitivities, such as language spoken in the home, age of child, and parent literacy.

PEDS tools ([www.PEDStest.com](http://www.PEDStest.com)) offers appropriate and psychometrically validated online developmental-mental health measures for home visitors to engage families, monitor progress and evaluate program success. PEDS (Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status) is an evidence-based surveillance tool and screening test used to manage a wide range of developmental/behavioral and family issues. With ten short questions to parents, PEDS helps professionals identify children at risk for school problems and those with undetected developmental-mental disabilities. PEDS ensures effective communication to/from parents and may be sufficient for viewing children’s skills and progress, and for determining if children need a more careful evaluation. In addition, PEDS: Developmental Milestones (PEDS:DM) and PEDS:DM-Assessment Level provide evidence-based specifics on any delays that the PEDS test may have identified.

This session will allow participants to work with and see live demonstrations of PEDS online. Participants will learn how online developmental-mental health measures may be used in home visits to screen/test for developmental-mental health issues in children. Case scenarios will be integrated into the session to model real world application of using PEDS tools to engage families, monitor progress and evaluate program success. The benefits and outcomes of early identification and intervention of developmental disabilities is well documented. Home visits are a step in realizing the potential of children who are living in at-risk homes and/or communities. This session will allow professionals to further develop their knowledge of online developmental-mental health measures and learn ways to enhance parent involvement and decision making during home visit encounters through developmental-mental health screening.

Type of Presentation: Field Presentation

On which professional role(s) does the proposal focus: Home Visiting and Center- and Family-Based Early Care and Education

Fields that would be most meaningful: Home Visiting and Early Intervention

Areas:

* Child Developmental and Health
* Early Intervention
* Parent Engagement
* Training/Professional Development