

Bright Futures Virginia

Outline of Activities 2000-2003

2000

Bright Futures was adopted as standard of child health by Commissioner of Health upon recommendation of the Nursing Council.

An advisory group was established to plan the implementation statewide. Representatives of all Office of Family Health divisions were appointed, as well as representatives from the health districts, Karen Connelly, Director of Nursing for the state health department, Chris Owens of the Department of Medicaid Assistance Services and Gwen Smith of the Department of Education. Group chaired by the School Health Nurse Consultant, Nancy Ford, RN (later Carol Pollock, NP) and the state coordinator of perinatal home visiting programs, Catherine Bodkin, LCSW.

At the direction of the Director of the Office of Family Health Services, plans for implementation of Bright Futures Guidelines were required in the OFHS strategic plan, in each divisions' strategic plans and each employee's work plan.

The coordinators worked with the VDH marketing firm to develop a Bright Futures Virginia logo.

2001

A state health department kick-off orientation was held in the center of the state at a hotel in Charlottesville. The national director of Bright Futures provided the initial plenary session. Each of the 35 districts directors was invited to send a four-person teams consisting of a nurse who works the child clinics or in schools, a home visitor, dental staff and a nutritionist. Thirty-five districts appointed a coordinator; 33 teams attended the day-long orientation. Districts that were beyond 250 miles from Charlottesville (7) were provided lodging the night prior to the meeting. The district team's responsibilities included providing training for its own district staff and developing its district's six-month initial implementation plan. Each of the 35 district team leaders received a CD with a PowerPoint presentation on Bright Futures for orientation sessions and one set of Bright Future books (Guidelines, Nutrition Practice Guide and the Oral Health Practice Guide) for each of the 135 departments; some districts encompass more than one department) Pocket guides and Bright Future Virginia briefcases were distributed to all health department staff who work with or who treat children.

At the end of the day, each district submitted 6-month plan. The progress on this plan was later reported to the co-chairs. The co-chairs provided on-going consultation with the districts via phone and email. Over 75% of the districts completed the initial steps. Some ran into problems due to loss of key personnel.

The Division of Oral Health staff trained 40 dentists and assistances who work in the local health districts on the Bright Future Guidelines and on the Bright Futures Oral Practice Guide. The School Health Coordinator trained the seven Department of Education's regional School Health Coordinators and the 125 local school district nurses were given an introduction. The Healthy Child Care Virginia Coordinator included Bright Futures Guidelines in her training of the 35 district nurse child care consultants and provided them with Bright Futures Guidelines. The Division of WIC Nutrition provided 2 separate training sessions to over 250 WIC nutritionists statewide and provided each with a pocket guide.

The Virginia Commissioner of Health wrote a letter to Virginia AAP members explaining that the Bright Futures Guidelines had been adopted by the Virginia Department of Health, as the state standard. The letter was mailed with a Bright Futures Guidelines book to 1,300 AAP-Virginia Chapter members and to nurse practitioners who worked with local health departments.

The co-chair met with the UVA and MCV family practice resident coordinators, MCV pediatric chair, and MCV nursing school regarding training on implementation of the Bright Futures approach. The co-chair distributed the Bright Futures Pediatric Case Studies to the two Academic Medical Centers and to the team leaders in the 35 districts to use for training purposes.

The national Bright Futures Work Group received a grant from HRSA to develop distance-learning materials for providers (with continuing educational credits). To shape the direction of these materials, Bright Futures Virginia distributed the nationally-developed questionnaire to district staff and MCH educators.

The Advisory Committee met quarterly and expanded to include private organizations such as the Richmond Children's Museum, Healthy Families Virginia, Child Health Partnerships and the March of Dimes and other state departments serving children (social service, mental health, mental retardation, early intervention). Identification about how to reach various providers who work with families were discussed as well as a plan for Year 2 developed.

2002

In an attempt to increase staff skill levels in one of the Bright Futures Core Concept areas (Communication), nurses in district programs serving children were offered the March of Dimes modules on communicating with diverse cultural groups. Approximately 120 nurses enrolled for this continuing education credited course.

The Bright Futures Health Record (10,000) was distributed to all health departments to provide through their home visiting programs, WIC and Immunization programs. Districts were encouraged to purchase additional copies in the future.

The Physical Fitness and Mental Health Practice Guides were distributed to 135 local health districts.

Meetings were held with the Department of Social Service child care training programs personnel to identify ways to include Bright Futures in training of licensed facilities, family day care providers, and Head Start staff.

Each district could send one representative to the Richmond Children's Museum's training seminar with T. Barry Brazelton, M.D. and his team. Staff members from districts who were over 250 miles were given lodging.

Bright Futures Key Concepts Training and Time Management Training was conducted for the Resource Mothers at their annual statewide conference 2002.

Training for community health workers on 6 Bright Futures core concepts was developed into a manual with James Madison University (through Healthy Start project funds). The manual was given to each of the 26 Resource Mothers coordinators to use in their local staff development meetings

Training of 11 CHIP coordinators so that they can train their eleven local program staffs

Two Bright Futures tabletop displays were created to educate parents and professionals. These can be borrowed by the different communities and are used for professional meetings.

Co-chairs gave presentations to national conferences (Healthy Start), statewide meetings (Virginia Primary Care Association, Substance Abuse Providers), and, with the Department of Medicaid Services (DMAS), provided training to all Medicaid providers in the state about the relationship of the Bright Futures Guidelines to the providers' services under EPSDT and BabyCare (Targeted Case Management of High Risk Women and Infants up to age 2).

Development of a PowerPoint presentation on Childhood Screenings and Bright Futures suitable for use with other professionals and community groups. Presented to interns, medical and nursing students at the Medical College of Virginia.

State legislation was introduced in the areas of lead-screening (SJ65) and EPSDT (HJ166) which referenced Bright Futures Guidelines as the framework.

Contact with the Virginia Chapter of AAP President regarding Bright Futures time management concepts and providing information in the organization's newsletter about state activities related to Bright Futures. Consultation with the AAP regarding interpretation of guidelines by individual physicians. Pilot project conducted by a pediatrician in Fairfax related to reduction of ADHD.

Local districts enhance their projects. Henrico gains support from local hospital for a plastic folder for each family in which to keep the Bright Futures Health Record. Hospital put logo on folder as part of their marketing budget. Arlington develops local version of Bright Futures Child Visit forms by age level.

DWIIH writes grant for coordinating women's health which includes working with the new HRSA project on Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness.

The interagency perinatal service group (PICS) sponsored by DMAS to identify ways to improve services to pregnant women, infants and children with special health care needs discussed the Bright Futures guidelines and how these relate to Medicaid requirements. The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services is conducting a needs assessment on mental health service needs of young children and the services available. DMAS conducting study on Immunizations uses Bright Futures framework.

1/2003- 9/2003

A New Parent Kit includes the Bright Futures Health Record. The kits, compiled in English and Spanish, will be distributed to parents of the approximately 100,000 Virginia births annually. Other items in the Kit follow Bright Futures Guidelines. AAP-Virginia Chapter provides \$6,000 for the Kit's resource guide. Bright Futures is part of a broader initiative to be launched by the Governor before the end of the year.

The Virginia Department of Social Services is distributing resource and educational kit to 10,000 child care providers early winter. The kit will include the pocket Bright Futures guide. The training manual is in process.

Virginia has received a grant for improving the interagency public and private collaboration in early childhood. A portion of that workplan includes integration of Bright Futures in collaborative efforts.

The health department's Division of WIC/Nutrition is distributing children's books through a new health and literacy project with parents of young children, (Starting on the Right Page").

Five one-day training session on the core concepts, developmental milestones, and mental health screening using the Mental Health Practice Guide was available regionally to the WIC and nursing District staff. All Nurse Managers will receive an overview of the training in October at their annual retreat.

Healthy Families supervisors and coordinators trained about using Bright Futures. They are training their local home visitors.

WIC sends representative to the national nutrition training with expectation of developing additional training for nutritionists.

Healthy Start sites (4) will be evaluating the usefulness of each family having its own copy of the Family Health Sessions booklet (ages birth to 21 years old) and developing family handouts. Exploration of application of the physical fitness and nutrition Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness materials in the interconceptual follow-up period with Healthy Start participants who are eligible to participate in a wellness program for 2 years post-partum.

With the Bright Futures Work Group, the co-chair is assisting in the development of family materials.

The co-chairs made presentations at the AMCHP conference (Washington, D.C) and at Biloxi conference for community health workers sponsored by the national Center for Sustainable Health Outreach.

Future activities planned

School staff training on identification of depression in young children will be done in collaboration with Suicide Prevention Grant in Fall 03 & Spring 04

Utilizing BF materials in healthy eating/health activity projects in selected schools; developing interventions r/t nutrition and physical fitness that relate to SOLs; developing tool to measure behavior change (pre- and post-test); 4th grade tool – ongoing.

Development of a training workshop for Resource Mothers (community health workers) on screening for depression using the Edinburgh tool

Training for child care providers & Head Start – DSS.