MPS Public Schools
Seeing Is Believing: Improving Vision Health for Minneapolis Preschoolers

Department of Early Childhood Education
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MPS ECS
Data Summary 2017-18

• 4643 children screened
• 1707 three year olds screened
• 69% Children of Color Screened
• 29% English Learners Screened
• 1994 ABCD Clinic Partner Referrals (3-5 years).
• 1890 Early Intervention Referrals (Birth-2).
• 8029 Follow through contacts
• 2312 Links to preschool services

Framework

• Effectiveness - improve identification
  Coordination - aligning resources of MPS ECS and Lions Clubs

• Equity - identify under served and increase access to resources
  Commitment - equity in service delivery and hiring practices

• Efficiency - making screening clinic run more efficiently
  Collaboration - families, education, health and private sectors

Results Data
Impact Use of Photo Screener

- 173% increase in vision referrals made for children who are English language learners.
- 80% of vision referrals were to children of color and American Indian children.
- 66% year over year increase in early detection and glasses prescribed.
- 33% referral response rate exceeds most research outcomes but needs work.
- Data supported the MDH to add instrument based screening to approved tools list and is convening an expert work group to further review the benefits of instrument based screening to advance vision eye health across the state.
- Investment Impact for access to glasses $7,000.00 Vision Photo Screener Investment yielded $26,444,000.00 ROI
Other Impacts

- Workflow of screening day improved—shortened time for vision screening
- Building trust with families and communities
- 40% reduction in rescreens with the use of the photo screener
- 33% of parents follow through with referrals after vision photo screening; only 10% followed through with manual vision screening and exam.
- Program staff find valuable the opportunity to contribute to the greater good.

Program Considerations

- Staffing—Increase follow through
- Training—use of instrument based screening
- Strategic Partnerships—U of M Center for Excellence
- Access to eye care and treatment

Recommendations 2018-2019

- Spread instrument based screening and follow through protocols to the MPS Early Childhood Special Education program and PICA Head Start and Early Head Start.
- Create an early childhood vision health Taskforce the City of Minneapolis to coordinate efforts across sectors and increase identification and treatment of vision concerns in young children.
- Deploy an intern from the U of M Center for Excellence in Maternal Child Health.
- Work with the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health to be a part of the Better Vision Together Community of Practice. Cohort began in March.
Family Story

Through follow up, parent revealed that her child needed glasses after referral from MPS.

Immigrant family who may not have received vision screening, eye exam and treatment in home country. Had cousin who lost vision in one eye due to late detection and lack of access to eye care.

Contact Information

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