



News from *Help Me Grow* National

National Center News

Webinar Report: Reach Out & Read and HMG

On August 6, *HMG* National moderated a webinar on the benefits of Reach Out & Read and *HMG* partnerships. Presenters were Paul Dworkin, M.D.; Wendy Hart, Regional Coalition Manager of Reach Out & Read; Polly McClure, Reach Out & Read-Alabama, Statewide Coordinator; and Beth Albright Johns, Assistant Vice President, Early Childhood Initiatives and Education Community Planning and Initiatives. Click here to [view the webinar slides](#) and [listen to the recording](#).

Conference Call: Charles Bruner on Medicaid & HMG

Following the recent interesting and invigorating regional calls, National will be facilitating a conference call on Monday, September 9, 1 p.m. EST, with Charles Bruner on using Medicaid to pay for *Help Me Grow* and care coordination. This was one widely shared concern across the regional calls. Charlie is eager to learn what you are thinking about in using Medicaid and what challenges you are experiencing. He would also like to know what would be helpful as you move forward. Please send your questions/comments by Tuesday, September 3 to Sara Sibley at Smartel@connecticutchildrens.org. In the meantime, Charlie has drafted a document titled "[10 Things We Know About Young Children and Health Equity...and 3 Things We Need to Do with What We Know](#)" to supplement the [HMG brief on Medicaid](#).

HMG in New Commonwealth Fund Report

This new report, [A History of The Commonwealth Fund's Child Development and Preventive Care Program](#), focuses on the creation and implementation of initiatives that began in the 1990s under the Child Development and Preventive Care Program. It includes the history and evolution of *HMG* as an innovative model for care coordination (see page 25).

[Update: Office of Community Child Health](#)

The Child Health and Development Institute of CT has released a new [Issue Brief](#) on its partnership with Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CT Children's) to promote the new [Office for Community Child Health](#) (OCCH). OCCH cultivates a health system that works hard to keep children healthy and out of the hospital by connecting them to a full range of community services. The OCCH is led by Paul Dworkin, MD, Executive Vice President for Community Child Health at CT Children's, and Lisa Honigfeld, Ph.D., Vice President for Health Initiatives at CHDI, and brings together all 12 of CT Children's community-oriented health programs under one umbrella with the goals of integration, innovation, dissemination and systems change. For more information about this initiative, contact Lisa Honigfeld at honigfeld@uchc.edu.

[Three HHS Agencies Issue Letter on Complex Trauma among Kids](#)

In July, three agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – issued a [letter to state directors of child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health authorities](#) encouraging them to strengthen their efforts to address complex trauma among children and youth known to child welfare. The letter provides useful and actionable information about **federal authority and funding streams**, strategies for **coordinating cross-system efforts**, and good practices for integrating evidence-based **screening, assessment, and interventions** related to complex trauma.

[Evaluation Toolkit from Maternal & Child Health Library](#)

The [MCH Library Evaluation Toolkit](#) is designed to help professionals easily find high-quality information and resources on documenting and achieving measurable health outcomes. It consists of an [Evaluation Primer](#) that explains the basics of public health evaluations; a list of [Key Resources](#) for use in the development of evaluations; and a [Choose and Use Guide](#) for quickly finding current evaluations and guides for use as promising practices.

[The Early Learning Challenge Grant Helping Infants and Toddlers](#)

Fourteen states have received Early Learning Challenge (ELC) grants since the program was initiated in 2011. Though they are not using a significant portion of their grants to fund initiatives targeting infants and toddlers specifically, grantees' efforts to strengthen the systems that support all young children and families will reap many benefits for babies. [Read the full article to learn more](#) about the plans states have and progress they've made implementing ELC.

[Final ABCD Paper on Influence of ABCD Initiative](#)

The [latest and final paper from ABCD](#), titled *The Enduring Influence of the Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Initiative*, is now available. The paper offers lessons, strategies, and policies learned over the past 12 years of the initiative. The report also provides an overview

of the focus and priorities of the ABCD initiative, a high-level snapshot of impact and critical success factors that can contribute to making a difference in the health and development of young children.

Rally4Babies Video and Website

Earlier this month, ZERO TO THREE, with more than a dozen co-sponsoring organizations, hosted "Rally4Babies: Learning Happens Right from the Start," a virtual rally headlined by Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius and Education Secretary Duncan, that urged policymakers to make investments in high-quality early learning opportunities for babies a priority. Watch the Rally4Babies on [YouTube](#), visit the [website](#) and/or sign the [petition](#).

Strengthening Families National Briefing

During a recent national network call, the Center for Study of Social Policy presented national data on state implementation and exciting upcoming work for the Strengthening Families initiative at the national level. Download the [PowerPoint presentation](#), watch a [recording](#) of the webinar presentation and/or view the [handout](#) from the briefing. Please note that there is poor sound quality for a few minutes at the beginning of the webinar, but the technical issues were resolved for the remainder of the presentation and discussion.

Strengthening Families for Health Care Providers

CSSP and the American Academy of Pediatrics released "[Promoting Children's Health and Resiliency: A Strengthening Families Approach](#)," a new brief for primary health partners. This brief is designed to inform pediatricians and other health care providers about Strengthening Families and give them concrete ideas about how they can support families to build protective factors. The brief touches on general family strengthening practices as well as specific action steps to take when children have been exposed to trauma.