

# Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs



## Medical Home Steering Committee Interim Report January 2004

### Introduction

Historically the Consortium's first work group, the Medical Home Steering Committee (MHSC) was first convened to represent Massachusetts, one of twelve states invited to the national American Academy of Pediatrics January, 2001 Medical Home conference in Hawaii. The group's [Promise to the State](#), produced shortly after this meeting, has served as a strategic benchmark for medical home planning in the Commonwealth. The MHSC was subsequently invited to mentor other state teams at the AAP's January, 2002 Medical Home conference in Phoenix. In July of the same year, the MHSC with the support of the full Consortium, published a comprehensive review of medical home efforts and their precursors in Massachusetts, known as the [Medical Home Background Brief](#), also available in executive summary form.

Membership of this work group expanded steadily in 2003 and now includes representatives from: the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Massachusetts Chapter of the AAP, the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Shriver Center's LEND program, UMass Medical School, MA Family Voices, two divisions of Children's Hospital (General Pediatrics and the Family Center) as well as New England SERVE.

In collaboration with New England SERVE and MDPH, Medical Home Steering Committee Members have played key roles in fostering collaborations with the Alliance for Health Care Improvement, a coalition of the large non-profit health insurers representing over 80% of the state's commercial insurance market as well as the largest Medicaid HMO.. The Alliance has agreed to make CSHCN a priority population for quality improvement, not only by direct involvement in Consortium activities but also through two specific collaborations:

- Parent Resource Guide Work Group—the *Directions/Caminos* parent manual, first published in 1997, is being revised and updated in both hard-copy and web versions, targeting health plan members whose families include a child with special health care needs. Publication is expected in summer, 2004.
- Screening and Identification Work Group. In this work group, in consultation with national experts on screening methodology and informed by recently-published data from the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, representatives of member health plans are working to implement effective CSHCN identification tools at the health plan level.

The Medical Home Steering Committee's current portfolio of objectives includes the following:

- To promote and champion medical home partnerships at all levels of the health care system;
- To identify, innovate, assess, and disseminate practical, cost-effective tools, techniques, and strategies to make medical home the system-wide standard of care in Massachusetts and beyond;
- To assist in coordinating medical home efforts throughout the state;
- To serve as advisors to MDPH's [MA Medical Home Project](#), which provides salaried, on-site care coordinators to 13 primary care pediatric practices;
- To foster and build upon the [Medical Home Network Project](#), a physician-to-physician mentoring effort that brings together primary care providers, parents and community partners for a series of case-based discussions. These CME opportunities provide practical training to Massachusetts clinicians committed to the highest standards of care and service for children with special health care needs and their families;

- To raise awareness of the importance of medical education as a key element of medical home capacity-building.

The full Medical Home Steering Committee met on the following dates in 2003:

Feb 6, June 4, October 23 (joint meeting with care Coordination Work Group), December 4.

### **MHSC Activities and Accomplishments in 2003**

Massachusetts Outreach to caregivers:

- Presentation to Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Needham, September 2003
- AAP/Shriners’ Training program “[Every Child Deserves a Medical Home](#)”, Springfield, November 8th, 2003
- Massachusetts Medical Society House of Delegates *unanimously* adopted [a resolution that endorses the Medical Home model](#), including language from the AAP definition. November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

National Outreach to caregivers and families:

- Presentation on MA Medical Home Project to [AAP Pediatricians’ Institute, Chicago, May 2003](#)
- Presentation at “[Every Child Deserves a Medical Home](#)” training, Houston, October 2003

### **MHSC Proposed Activities 2004**

#### 1. Medical Education

Over the past year, many Consortium members have voiced strong interest in the quality and timeliness with which Massachusetts medical schools and residency-training programs prepare physicians to work effectively with children with special health care needs and their families. While several exciting and innovative training efforts are underway locally, information sharing is anecdotal and there is no central repository of information concerning “who is doing what and where.”

In the last quarter of 2003, the MHSC agreed to *create* such a repository by collecting data about CSHCN-related, family centered medical education in Massachusetts. To this end, we intend to accomplish the following during 2004:

- Survey medical education leaders, instructors, and students statewide about academic coursework, diagnosis-specific studies, clinical and experiential training, community outreach and social education programs, home-visit and respite projects, mentoring arrangements, and other CSHCN-related training activities;
- Create an online database and issue a public report on our findings;
- Present survey findings to the full Consortium;
- Identify next steps, potentially including:
  - Identifying and supporting physician/medical student teams to conduct needs assessments at each training institution
  - Creating CSHCN-related curriculum modules for piloting and evaluation

#### 2. Emerging Medical Home Leadership Groups

Increasing evidence of regionally based leadership on behalf of CSHCN is encouraging the Consortium to explore opportunities for assisting such regional efforts. During 2004, the MHSC intends to provide outreach to the following groups to facilitate the sharing of medical home training resources and materials, and to ensure effective communication and collaboration with the Consortium.

- *Western Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs.* This group grew out of the November, 2003 Every Child Deserves a Medical Home training in Springfield.
- *UMass Medical Home Special Interest Group.* This group began meeting in 2003 and brings together UMass Medical Center physicians, community-based care coordinators, parent leaders and researchers interested in exploring collaborative efforts on behalf of CSHCN in the central region of the state.

### 3. Identifying Outcomes of Medical Home Partnerships

Successful statewide implementation of the medical home model in Massachusetts will require increased documentation of the outcomes of this approach to care delivery. The MHSC intends to work in collaboration with the Care Coordination Work Group of the Consortium to explore effective tools for data collection and analysis to accurately analyze costs of care for CSHCN with and without care coordination support in primary care practices.

### **Challenges**

In a time of diminished resources and pressured priorities, the Medical Home Steering Committee will require more than enthusiasm and volunteer energy to carry out its mission. Among other things, we will be pursuing funding for part- or full-time administrative support to our work group and for all of the priorities mentioned above.