

Help Me Grow Ventura County Network of Care

Ventura County, CA

Background

Help Me Grow Ventura County (HMGVC), an initiative of First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) and an affiliate of the national "Help Me Grow" model, is building an integrated, countywide early childhood network of care to promote early identification of young children's needs in areas that affect children's health and development. HMGVC also provides care coordination services to ensure parents and other caregivers have the help they need to keep their children thriving by connecting them to community-based resources and interventions. Our systems-change model aims to improve the coordination of local early childhood and health services by leveraging existing resources in the community, maximizing opportunities within public agencies, and promoting cross-sector collaboration toward a shared agenda.

Through participation in the Nemours Integrator Learning Lab, the HMGVC Network of Care has specifically focused on jointly developing a project with our county's managed care plan, Gold Coast Health Plan, to leverage Medi-Cal/Medicaid to foster the social and emotional health of Ventura County's young children (ages 0-5). Joint efforts have focused on a continuum of screening to identify needs; differentiated levels of care coordination/care management that responds to risks identified at levels of intensity reflecting child and family needs; and other population health responses that address children's developmental risks and needs. We continue to develop partnerships with other community agencies and programs to expand the capacity of our Network of Care to support families and children across the developmental spectrum.

Network Partners in the Integrator Learning Lab

- Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Child Trends
- First 5 Ventura County*
- Gold Coast Health Plan*
- Landon Pediatric Foundation
- Partnership for Safe Families and Communities
- Pritzker Children's Initiative
- Pritzker Foundation
- Tri-Counties Regional Center - Early Start
- Ventura County Health Care Agency
- Ventura County Public Health

*Network representatives in the 2020 Integrator Learning Lab

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Near-Term, Lab-Related Goals

- Increase understanding of Medi-Cal's position and future thinking related to value based payments or other payment structures
- Develop a plan related to value-based payment, including who to include in the network
- Produce a value proposition for First 5 Ventura County
- Deepen partnership with managed care plan, including presenting value proposition and moving toward joint project and funding mechanism for services
- Establish initial benchmarks to mark progress toward overall financial sustainability and value based payments
- Aligning synergistic work with Learning Lab, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Manatt Health, and other concurrent initiatives
- Establish shared understanding of equity among team and network as foundation for next steps (e.g. incorporating equity impact assessment into decision making and strategy selection; increasing parent / family / community voice within the network)

Achievements Supported by Technical Assistance from the Learning Lab

- Formalized role as a regional integrator
- Developed a strategy document outlining approach and action items for coordinating with a regional managed care plan toward the desired joint project and ultimately sharing in value-based payment
- Cultivated partnership with a Medi-Cal managed care plan, laying groundwork for a joint project:
 - Plan is shifting to a population health framework; sees First 5 as partner
 - Plan is sharing their data with First 5 Ventura and engages in needs analysis to identify priorities for joint work
- Integrated work with the Center for Study of Social Policy and the Learning Lab– strengthened peer network with 3 other counties; connected Medicaid MCO to their peers so they have evidence of other approaches

Integrative Areas of Future Focus

Though the 2020 Integrator Learning Lab has drawn to a close, Help Me Grow Ventura County Network of Care will continue to be deliberate and strategic about deploying integrative activities in support of the goals of the network. This will include a focus on health equity and community engagement, with actions such as:

- Helping managed care plans and other partners develop a more nuanced understanding of population health data vs. provider-level data on individual/patient outcomes
- Monetizing the integrative functions the network carries out for the benefit of network partners and the community as a whole
- Serving as a convener of key stakeholders around early childhood development
- Continuing to cultivate relationships and buy-in with managed care plans and other stakeholders
- Mobilize stakeholders and strategy related to ACEs screening
- Continuing to work reflective moments into the process as part of building a network-wide culture that support continuous learning, reflection, and improvement



The 2020 Integrator Learning Lab was made possible through the support of The Kresge Foundation. To learn more about the Learning Lab, please email MHCUCU@Nemours.org or visit the project web pages at www.movinghealthcareupstream.org/2020-integrator-learning-lab/