Sustaining a Focus on Social and Emotional Health in Early Childhood: A Case for Leveraging Medicaid and CHIP

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Acknowledgments
Medicaid and CHIP Can Drive the Course of Pediatric Care Delivery

Medicaid and CHIP can strongly influence how pediatric care is delivered by sharpening the focus on promoting social and emotional development.

Medicaid and CHIP:

- **Broad reach:** Nearly half of children birth to 3 are covered
- **Consistent touch-point:** A clear majority of children attend well-child visits
- **Trusted source:** Parents rely on their child’s pediatric provider for guidance and reassurance on health and development
- **Benefits designed** with children’s health and developmental needs in mind
- **Built-in flexibility** to refine how care is delivered

Parents’ health, as well as economic and social factors affecting the family, are central to the child’s social and emotional development.

Selected family risk factors for low-income children

Parents may be uninsured:
• 12% of parents with a child under age 3 did not have health insurance in 2016
• Parents are 4X more likely to be uninsured than their children – 14 states that have not expanded Medicaid pose greatest challenges, especially for families of color

Parental health status and family circumstances:
• Maternal depression
• Interpersonal violence

Economic challenges:
• Factors such as food insecurity, housing instability, affordable transportation

Selected Drivers of States’ Interest

1. Intensifying appreciation of early brain development
2. Growing focus on social determinants of health (SDOH)
3. Next generation efforts on value based payments (VBP)
4. Opioid and broader substance use epidemic
5. Mental health crisis and rising suicide rates
The Blueprint presents a set of actionable strategies for using Medicaid and CHIP to finance promotion of social and emotional development in pediatric primary care.

- Five core strategies and tools, including statutory and regulatory authority
- Action steps to implement strategies
- Tools for implementation (i.e., federal guidance, contract language, sample State Plan Amendment language)
- State examples of current policies and activities across the country
Blueprint Strategies

- Cover and support a full range of screening, assessment, and treatment services
- Leverage quality and performance improvement
- Establish payment models and incentives
- Facilitate investment in team-based care
- Leverage a CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI)