



NATIONAL CENTER

for Children's Vision & Eye Health

AT PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA



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National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness America

- Prevent Blindness America, founded in 1908, is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight.
- Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screenings, community and patient service programs and research.
- National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health was established at Prevent Blindness America in 2009.



National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health

Mission and Vision

- Mission:
 - Improve Children's Vision through Strong Partnerships, Sound Science, and Targeted Public Policy
- Vision:
 - Develop a full continuum of care for young children by: identifying vision conditions in children early, linking them to appropriate care, ensuring they receive the care they need



Vision Problems in Children

- Only 1 in 3 children in America received eye care services before the age of six
- Currently, vision impairment in children is a condition that affects 5-10 % of preschool children
- Pediatric vision screening:
 - Is inexpensive
 - Treatment is effective
 - Improves the quality of life of children



NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S VISION AND EYE HEALTH

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

- Provide national leadership and serve as convener of experts
- Establish best practices and develop national standards
- Serve as key resource and nationwide technical assistance coordinator
- Collaborate with state programs implementing best practices



PROVIDE LEADERSHIP:

- Develop best practices and guidelines for public health infrastructure
- Create national vision screening guidelines
- Develop statewide strategies that will ensure early detection, vision screening, and a continuum of vision and eye healthcare for young children
- Develop comprehensive system for collecting data and reporting it in a uniform manner



COLLABORATION WITH STATES

- State Pilots in five states: Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio
- Develop, implement statewide strategies for vision screening, focusing on 3-5 year olds
- Establish quality improvement strategies
- Create a mechanism for improving data systems, reporting of children's vision and eye health services on the state level



HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

CREATING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS:

In 2010 two critical entities were established:

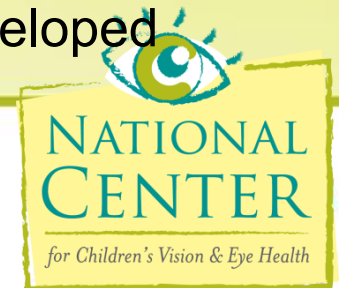
- National Expert Panel: representing practitioners, university faculty, parent advocates, public health experts.
- Children's Vision and Eye Health Federal Intra-Agency Task Force.



NATIONAL EXPERT PANEL

Activities

- **Work groups will develop recommendations**
 - 1) Performance Measures
 - 2) Vision Screening Guidelines
 - 3) Data Collection and Reporting
- **Goal: By 2012 the National Expert Panel will**
 - White papers outlining performance measures and model practices will be published
 - Data systems focusing on best practices, closing gaps in reporting mechanisms will have been designed
 - National guidelines for children's vision screening developed



THE STATE PILOT PROJECTS

- Determining where the strengths and gaps are in service delivery, key stakeholders, understanding their state laws, mandates, and protocols
- While surveying their state, they are connecting with and identifying new collaborations and partnerships that will help them in achieving their goals



THE STATE PILOT PROJECTS

- Via monthly calls and utilization of a online intranet, the state CEO's exchange information, tips, data and research they have identified or used, pose questions, and gain support from each other and the National Center staff



THE STATE PILOT PROJECTS

- Convening stakeholders multiple times each year, dividing into work groups, focusing on objectives and National Center goals
- Participants are excited about the opportunity to work together to develop and implement a uniform strategy for universal screening of children



NEXT STEPS

CHALLENGES:

- 1) Gaps in delivery of services, gaps in data collection, lack of a Title V performance measure
- 2) Confusion or lack of understanding of existing state laws, mandates, and protocols
- 3) Identification and use of more than one vision screening guideline in their state



SUCSESSES:

- Convening individuals who clearly want to work to make a difference in the lives of children
- The expertise and investment from key public and private agencies and bureaus brought to the table
- Communication between the state projects and the National Expert Panel providing ways to share information and implement ideas



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