Oregon Children’s Vision Summit
September 16, 2011
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 with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to create a public health infrastructure that will promote and ensure a comprehensive, multi-tiered continuum of vision care and eye health for young children.
Mission and Vision

• Mission:
  
  *To 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, and 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.
Prevalence of Children’s Vision Problems

Currently, vision impairment in children is a condition that affects 5-10% of preschool children.
Preventive Approaches Work!

Per the USPSTF-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
The Road to Healthier Vision for Children....

STARTS WITH CREATING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
Partnerships of the National Center

- Children’s Vision Federal Intra-Agency Task Force
- National Expert Panel
Key Players for Success in Children’s Vision

Children’s Vision Federal Intra-Agency Task Force

- Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
- Indian Health Service
- Office of Communication, Health Education, and Public Liaison, National Eye Institute
- Division of Diabetes Translation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Children and Adult Health Programs Group Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification
- Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration
- Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education

- National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Early Childhood Health and Development Branch, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, HRSA
- Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health
- Prevent Blindness America
Key Players for Success in Children’s Vision

National Expert Panel
- Depts. Of Public Health
- Eye Care Professionals- Optometry and Ophthalmology
- Family Advocates
- Academics
- Researchers
- School Nurse Association
- Office of Headstart
- Pediatricians
- HRSA-MCHB
- PBA
NATIONAL EXPERT PANEL
Activities

Work groups developing recommendations
1) Performance Measures
2) Vision Screening
3) Data Collection and Reporting

Goal: By 2012 the National Expert Panel will
- Publish journal articles and supporting documents outlining performance measures and model practices
- Design data systems focusing on best practices, closing gaps in reporting mechanisms, and supporting current trends in HIT
- Develop national recommendations for children’s vision screening
Best Practice - State Demonstration Projects

• Develop, implement statewide strategies for vision screening, currently focusing on 3-5 year olds
• Establish quality improvement strategies
• Design a mechanism for improving data systems, reporting of children’s vision and eye health services on the state level
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
State Pilot Projects

There are a lot of ways to get there……
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) Identify gaps in delivery of services, gaps in data collection, gaps in state performance measures

2) Clarify confusion or lack of understanding of existing state laws, mandates, and protocols

3) Identify and align vision screening guidelines in the state
Start Your Journey

- Convene individuals
- Engage expertise and leadership
- Establish a line of communication
- Analyze the situation
- Establish a plan
- Create action
- Review your successes and failures
- Tell your story
Thank You!