5th Annual
FOCUS ON EYE HEALTH NATIONAL SUMMIT
VISION TO ACTION: Collaborating Around a National Strategy

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Presenting the 2016 Recipient of the Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health
Children’s Vision 2016 – Where We Are and Where We Need To Go
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Thanks and Acknowledgements

• The memory of Jenny Pomeroy
• Colleagues in CVMA and Prevent Blindness
• Colleagues in Vision In Preschoolers Study
• Family
Current state of children’s vision in the US

- Better science
- Successful local and national projects
- Access to care still limited
What’s the problem today?

- Limited Awareness
- Limited Access
- Limited Interest
Limited awareness

- Outside of the eyecare provider community
- Within the eyecare provider community
Limited awareness outside eyecare

- Constituents
- Importance of vision health
- Studies show deficits
- Developmental questionnaires
- Health surveys
- Early education settings
Limited awareness within eyecare

- Knowledge limited
- Many won’t see children
- Saving eyes, not children
- Relationship between vision, learning, development, and success in life
Limited access

• Focus on screening
• Exams only
• Organizational problems
• Unwillingness to collaborate
Limited access

- Limited insurance coverage
- Medical, geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic isolation
- Massachusetts GeoMap
Limited interest within eyecare

- Professional conflict
- Messaging to trainees
- Manpower crisis
- Where is the overall vision care community?
Limited interest within primary care

- Limited education
- Discomfort or fear?
What must we do?

- Improve Awareness
- Improve Access
- Improve Interest
Improve awareness

• Push research and systems development
• Ensure evidence basis to guide policy and practice
• Increase awareness of PPC’s to benefits of effective vision care
• Educate and engage constituents in the importance of vision care
Improve access

- Improve screening
- Allocate resources
- ACA
- Ensure insurance mandates quality vision care
- Integrate vision care into all health care systems
Improve interest

- Pediatric practice must become popularized, highly valued, and properly incentivized
- Health systems must value and integrate vision health into comprehensive care
- Make a national commitment of resources to deliver vision care to children
Collaboration!!

• Beyond eye doctors
• Primary healthcare and early education
• Government
• Recognize linkages between vision and learning
Summary and Conclusions

- Connection between vision and learning and public policy
- Collaboration to solve the problem
Thanks