
Session Moderator:
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University of Illinois Chicago, Executive Editor, Journal of School Nursing

Cindy Hillyer, MPA
Minneapolis Public Schools

Karen Woodhouse, MS
Eyes on Learning

Jacquelyn O’Banion, MD, MSc
Emory University
Building a Comprehensive System of Early Eye Health in Minnesota

Cindy Hillyer MPA
Director, Early Childhood Education
Minneapolis Public Schools
2017: Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Screening Program and local club of the Lions Clubs International partner to increase instrument screening. This action leads to the launch of the Minneapolis early childhood vision health task force.
## Analyzing MPS Outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
<th>INSTRUMENT VS CHART % CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REFERRALS</td>
<td>265%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIAGNOSIS</td>
<td>330%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMS</td>
<td>735%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREATMENT</td>
<td>482%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACTS</td>
<td>406%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREATMENT/POSITIVE SCREEN</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 CHART SCREENING</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-INSTRUMENT SCREEN</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source MPS student information system SY 2017 & SY 2018

2018: HRSA funded UMN Center for Leadership Education in Maternal and Child Public Health deployed a research intern to support data analysis and administrative support in convening the Minneapolis early childhood vision health task force.
**MINNEAPOLIS EARLY CHILDHOOD VISION HEALTH TASK FORCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phillips Eye Institute Foundation (Early Youth Eye care Initiative)</td>
<td>Free vision-screening, exams, treatment &amp; follow through. Free to MPS and SPPS students</td>
<td>Health/Non-profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin County Child &amp; Teen Checkups (EPSDT)</td>
<td>Population vision screening promoted through well-child exams for Medicaid enrolled children</td>
<td>Public/Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD5M Kids Sight Foundation Lions Clubs International</td>
<td>Free Vision screening &amp; referral Fund raising support health infrastructure (building new hospitals)</td>
<td>Non-profit/Philanthropy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Screening/Early Childhood Special Education</td>
<td>Minnesota Department of Education program universal vision screening before Kindergarten entrance</td>
<td>Education-State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents In Community Action Head Start and Early Head Start</td>
<td>Vision screening required at program entrance. 6 month to 5 years.</td>
<td>Non-Profit/Public Health-Education-Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Minneapolis Health Department</td>
<td>Title V funding to support access to vision screening, exams and access to treatment</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMN Center for Leadership Education in Maternal and Child Public Health</td>
<td>Research Intern to support convening, data analysis and local policy agenda development.</td>
<td>Public/Health/Higher Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This chart reflects the core lead team of the Minneapolis task force who aligned resources to advance a collaborative to advance early eye health in Minneapolis.

2019: convened stakeholders and launched Minneapolis Early Childhood Vision Health Task Force and selected to participate in the NCCVEH BVT.
Race & Language Postives Screens Using Instrument Screening

Data source Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Screening student data systems SY 2018 & SY 2019.

2020: Slide from poster presentation at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) annual conference.
US Gov. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services features Minneapolis direct service cross systems design

**From the Directors**

*Hello, Early Learning Leaders!*

August is Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month. To honor this designation, our Voices in the Field interview with Cindy Hillyer, director of the Office of Early Childhood Education at Minneapolis Public Schools, highlights the importance of collaboration between service delivery systems. Hillyer leads a Minnesota Early Childhood Screening program that provides a universal, required health and education screening touch point for 3- through 5-year-olds before kindergarten, including a vision health screening. We invite you to read the full interview on the OSERS Blog.

August 2020: Advancing equity through service systems alignment and collaboration leads to improvements in care coordination, direct services, policy development and child and family outcomes.
COVID Task Force pivot: policy-planning-parent engagement

1. Advocacy & policy agenda
   
2. Capacity building
   • early care and education
   • dental therapist example
   • rural-urban alignment

3. Communication
   • parent survey
   • policy agenda: what’s our ask?

## Parent Survey Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Item</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpreter</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Survey Item</th>
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<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind of</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Item</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind of</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Survey Item</th>
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<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concerns</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Item</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>65%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind of</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Item</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Follow Up Information</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: Minneapolis Vision Health Task Force parent survey results 2021-QualtricsXM online survey platform.

2021 task force developed, administered and analyzed results of parent survey focused on communication, access and barriers.
Focus Forward

Improve Communication
- parents/caregivers
- policy makers

Scale
- Rural-urban alignment
- Philanthropy engagement

Sustain direct service systems design
- partnerships
- resource alignment

Spread
- Policy agenda & legislative action
- Link early and elder eye health priorities

2021-2022 Minnesota Early Eye Health Task Force agenda.
Impacting Best Vision Health for Children in Arizona

Karen Woodhouse, MS
Director, Eyes On Learning
Eyes On Learning is a statewide coalition of children’s vision partners. We believe that every child should experience their best vision health and learning success, which is why we work together so that every child receives vision screening, and an eye exam and treatment if needed.

eyesonlearning.org.
Eyes On Learning is dedicated to making sure that children with vision problems are identified early and receive an eye exam and follow-up treatment to achieve their best vision health.

2018 Survey of Community Health Centers (70% response rate)

- 89% conduct vision screening for children 5 years and younger
- 51% use instrument-based screening for young children
- 49% use chart-based screening, but less than 50% of attempted chart screenings are completed

Partnership to fund Photoscreener Grants for 62 health care and education organizations serving vulnerable children

- 35,000 more children to receive annual screening
Eyes On Learning is dedicated to making sure that children with vision problems are identified early and receive an eye exam and follow-up treatment to achieve their best vision health.

**Policy Win for Children’s Vision: SB1456**

Vision Screening Mandated in Arizona Schools

**CHAPTER 316**

**SENATE BILL 1456**

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 36, CHAPTER 7.2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 2; RELATING TO VISION SCREENING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

Quality standards
Enhanced vision screener training
Tools and equipment
Data reporting
Better Vision Together Community of Practice

Accelerate how participants in the COP provide quality vision screens and successful referrals for the children they serve

- 2 virtual Communities of Practice: photoscreener grantees in health care and education/community settings met September 2020 – May 2021
- Parent partners were peer-participants in each COP with access to parent partner support
- Acknowledged COVID-19 impacts on their screening efforts
- Participants used their reported screening data during their COP participation for quality improvement
Eyes On Learning is dedicated to making sure that children with vision problems are identified early and receive an eye exam and follow-up treatment to achieve their best vision health.

**Path to Healthy Vision**

**Screening > Eye Exam > Treatment**

Routine vision screenings are important for a child's growth and learning milestones. Children should receive vision screening:

- **For the First Time as Early as Age 1**
- **At Least Once Between 3-5 Years Old**
- **Every 1 to 2 Years Throughout Grade School**

Healthy vision is critical for every child's social development, school success, and well-being.

A child's vision develops from the time he/she is born until adolescence. Infants can only clearly see objects that are 6 to 10 inches from their face. A baby's eyesight begins to improve at about 3.4 months old. Over the next few years, a child develops his/her ability to see further away, judge distances, and improve eye-hand coordination.

It is critical to identify issues with eye health and vision development at a young age—problems are easier to correct when treatment starts early. Some conditions, like amblyopia (also called “lazy eye”), can cause permanent vision loss if not caught and treated early.

- Watch for signs that your child has a vision problem. These include squinting, sticky eyes, excessive blinking or tearing, headaches, long or leaning, or sitting close to the TV or computer screen.
- Request a vision screening for your child, even if he/she does not show signs of a vision problem. You can do this at your well-child visit or take your child to an eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist).
- Take your child to an eye doctor for a complete eye exam. If your child has a vision problem, you should take him/her to an optometrist or ophthalmologist to determine if he/she has a vision problem.
- Ensure your child follows the recommended treatment plan. If the eye exam shows your child has a vision problem, the eye doctor may prescribe glasses or another treatment option to best support his/her vision health needs.

The Eyes On Learning Coalition is a dedicated group of state, local, and national organizations that share a commitment to vision health and learning success for all Alaska children.

**Focus on Eye Health Summit: Our Changing Vision | July 14–15, 2021**
The proportion of Arizona children enrolled in Medicaid receiving a vision screening increased in all age groups.

Data Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) claims
Fewer Arizona Native American children enrolled in Medicaid receive vision screening

Medicaid Child Enrollment
2019 n=547,000

Asian/Pacific Islander 2.1%
Black 10.3%
Caus./White 56.5%
Hispanic 14.4%
Native American 8.0%
Other/Unknown 8.6%

Data Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) claims
More School-Age Children Should Receive Eye Exams After Screening Referral (at least 25-30%)

Data Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) claims
81% of all children receiving an eye exam and diagnosis of vision problem receive treatment.
Future Focus

Ramp up parent awareness and action campaign
Increase Parent Partners in EOL leadership
Support health and education providers in using their local data systems to identify areas for improvement
Seek and use data to inform targeted efforts
Georgia Vision 2020 – Improving Access Through Collaboration

Jacquelyn O’Banion, MD
Emory University
A Shared Mission: Prevent Blindness

From Silos ....... To Collaboration

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Where are we?

Effects of an Aging Population and Racial Demographics on Eye Disease Prevalence: Projections for Georgia Through 2050

ELAINE KELLY, QING WEN, DANNY HADDAD, AND JACQUELYN O'BANION

American Journal of Ophthalmology

February 2020
Georgia vs USA population

Comparing Georgia's Growth to USA Projections

Visual impairment | Blindness | OAG | AMD | Cataract

Georgia | USA

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA
Vision Impairment and blindness
Disease Density,
#visually impaired per 1000 population

2020

2050
Assessing Gaps: Where are we needed?
Understanding Access
Breaking Down Access Barriers

THE

GEORGIA VISION NETWORK

Connecting and Providing available care to those in need of services
Georgia Vision Network

- Community Vision Screening
- Individual identified as needing further eye care
  - 4.5hrs away
  - Won’t see children
  - Only sees private insurance
  - Doesn’t do diabetic exams

Reality. No care is sought
A patient who has failed a screening and identified as needing further care will be entered into the network.

Demographic and “qualifying data” will be entered as well as follow up needs.

Algorithm for available programs and providers is completed.

Patient is matched to available care or placed in the GVN Queue.
Georgia Vision Network

Community Vision Screening

Individual identified as needing further eye care

4.5hrs away

4.5hrs away

Don’t see children

Only sees private insurance

Doesn’t do diabetic exams

Reality. No care is sought

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA
Georgia Vision Network

Community Vision Screening

Individual identified as needing further eye care

Within 30min
Works with charity organizations
Accepts patient insurance
Can assist with patient identified need

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