

TEAM: Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Education Program
*Children's Hospital of Wisconsin * Medical College of Wisconsin * Special Needs Family Center*

History of TEAM: A Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Curriculum for Pediatric Residents

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Rotation was first conceived in the fall of 1999. From the outset it was a collaboration between parents and professionals with a common goal of improving health care for children with special health care needs by creating an educational experience focusing on the impact of chronic disease and disability on the child, family, community, and health care providers. Originally known as Project TEAM, the Special Needs Rotation was founded by Dr. David Lewis, Dr. Pat Lye, Bonnie Anderson, RN, MS, CPNP and Anne Juhlmann, RN, BSN. Bonnie Anderson and Anne Juhlmann are both parents to children with special health care needs as well as nurses employed by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

At the time Dr. Lewis was the Director of Resident Education for the Medical College of Wisconsin. He felt strongly that "TEAM" become an integral part of pediatric resident education and he put a lot of time, effort and thought into making that happen. TEAM was first piloted with third year and chief pediatric residents during the Spring of 2001. It was a short experience – six hours spread over three weeks. The rotation consisted of an orientation to special needs, a visit to a durable medical supplier, a home visit to a family with a CYSHCN and finally a "wrap up" session during which we met with the residents and they shared their experiences, insights and lessons learned. The four residents who participated in that pilot unanimously expressed that they would like to see it become a permanent part of resident education. Sadly, on Sept. 12, 2001, Dr. Lewis passed away while on a medical mission trip out of the country. However, his never ending support and encouragement was and remains the foundation of this rotation.

After Dr. Lewis passed away, we did not resume development of TEAM for some time. In the summer of 2002, Dr. Pat Lye resigned from the program so that she could focus her energy on other activities within Children's Hospital. However, before resigning she facilitated a meeting during which we introduced Dr. John Gordon and Dr. Fred Klingbeil to the program. Dr. Gordon is the medical director of the Special Needs Program. Dr. Klingbeil is the medical director of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program. Both were immediately interested in TEAM and brought enthusiasm and leadership to the fledgling program.

Throughout the Fall of 2002, we met frequently to develop the program with a goal of re-introducing it in January 2003. Dr. Jay Nocton, Director of Resident Education, was generous in his support of the program. He increased the time allotted to the 3rd year rotation well beyond the original six hours that had been committed. Thus we spent our time planning approximately fourteen experiences, which became the current Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Rotation. The special needs experiences were given a "home" within the Behavioral Pediatrics Rotation - a required part of every third year pediatric resident's training.

The Special Needs Rotation was re-piloted between January and April of 2003. Nine residents participated this time. Although quantitative data was not collected, the residents did evaluate each experience and the rotation as a whole in their daily journals. All nine wrote that they learned more about special needs, the impact of special needs and how to care for CYSHCN between the first and the last day of the rotation. Unanimously, they evaluated their interviews

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with families (during both the home visits and various clinic visits) as the experiences that contributed the most to their knowledge, understanding, comfort and even compassion for CYSHCN and their families.

August 2005 marked the beginning of our third academic year for this rotation. Although we continue to try to make this a practical, meaningful experience and consistently try to be flexible enough to meet each resident's stated learning needs, we have found that the current model we are using is quite effective in improving both comfort and competency for the pediatric physician in training. This is evidenced by the quantitative data we collect from a pre and post evaluation given to all participants. In addition, residents continue to evaluate and reflect on each experience in their daily journal which is collected at the end of the rotation. Finally, all residents are required to give a formal presentation at the end of the rotation, which consistently displays increased understanding of the social, financial, and emotional costs to families with CYSHCN, the potential benefits of a medical home, and the barriers (particularly time and financial) that practitioners face when implementing medical homes.

In July 2005 we began incorporating first year pediatric residents into what is currently a three-year curriculum, required for all residents. The interns spend ½ day learning about the tenets of a medical home and children and youth with special health care needs. They are also introduced to the Special Needs Family Center at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. The ½ day session is co-facilitated by a physician and parent. The focus is what a first year pediatric resident can do to care for a CYSHCN and thus it is very practical. The interns are also matched with a family and a home visit is made within two months. Quantitative and qualitative data is collected so that the 1st year curriculum can be developed over time to meet the intern's learning needs.

In July 2006 we plan to move on to our third and final phase of making TEAM a three-year curriculum. PI-2 residents will attend a variety of noon conferences focused on subjects pertinent to the care of CYSHCN. The residents will, as in their 1st and 3rd year, make a home visit to a family with a CYSHCN. Finally all residents will attend a Death and Dying Retreat, which is already an established part of the PI-2 curriculum. The third and final year of pediatric residency will remain a focused block rotation as it has since the start of TEAM.

It remains a privilege to work together as a team on this program. Current staff members are: Bonnie Anderson, RN, MS, CPNP, John Gordon, MD, John Humphrey, MD, Fred Klingbeil, MD and Anne Juhlmann, RN, BSN. In addition community providers, hospital staff and many families contribute their time, experience and insight to the Special Needs Rotation. This rotation has grown into an integral part of pediatric physician education at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

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