

TEAM: Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Education Program

*Children's Hospital of Wisconsin * Medical College of Wisconsin * Special Needs Family Center*

A Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Rotation for Pediatric Residents at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

TEAM: The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Curriculum is a three year longitudinal, educational experience for all pediatric residents at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. From the outset it has been collaboration between parents and providers representing the Special Needs Family Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin. The primary goal of this project is to improve health care for children and youth with special health care needs through an educational experience focusing on the impact of chronic disease and disability on the child, family, community, and health care providers.

TEAM is a required part of every pediatric resident's training at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Family teachers volunteer to invite residents into their homes and their child's school, to share their challenges, rewards, needs, beliefs, hopes, and perspectives so that the resident may have a glimpse into their reality. In addition residents visit and learn about various public, private and community resources that help to meet the needs of these children and families. Residents attend learning sessions on specific topics such as youth transitions, emergency planning for CYSHCN and community pediatrics. They also spend time in various clinics such as the trach-vent clinic or the seating and equipment clinic. Though they may have attended these clinics in the past, the focus during TEAM is on the family experience rather than solely on medical management.

Qualitative data from each resident's daily reflective journal, and more recently quantitative data in the form of pre and post rotation evaluations has shown an increase in the pediatric resident's comfort and competency with CYSHCN. Additionally, all residents are required to give a formal 45 minute 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.

Current staff members are: Bonnie Anderson, RN, MS, CPNP, (parent of CYSHCN), John Gordon, MD, John Humphrey, MD, Fred Klingbeil, MD and Anne Juhlmann, RN, BSN, (parent of CYSHCN). 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 and meaningful part of pediatric physician education. Most of these residents will practice within Wisconsin boundaries – this rotation has the potential to benefit CYSHCN and their families within our communities for years to come.

Questions about this program should be addressed to Anne Juhlmann at 414-266-3196 or ajuhlmann@chw.org

Last updated 1/10/2006