

Highlights

Message from
OPIP Director

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Focused on
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Oregon TPEC

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Collaborative

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Welcome
New Staff

OPIP is 14: A Year in Review!

JULY 2024

Since its inception in 2010, the Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership has been dedicated to fostering meaningful, long-term collaborations among stakeholders committed to enhancing child health care quality. Our shared vision and purpose have always been to improve the health of all children and youth in Oregon.

As we enter our 14th year (two lucky sevens!), we feel fortunate to continue to be able to lead work aligned with our mission to build health and improve equitable outcomes for ALL children and youth in Oregon. Every day, I am impressed by the transformative nature of the work we are leading, deeply humbled by the parents and community-based organizations that motivate, guide, and inform our work, and extremely grateful for the partners at the primary care practice and health system-level that we get to work with, support, and learn from. Their dedication enriches our collective endeavors. This annual newsletter highlights selected projects and key outcomes from the past year. These include:

- A high-level summary of the **Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood Cooperative Agreement** that began in September 2023.
- Our leadership role in Measure Stewardship for the novel and innovative **System-Level Social-Emotional Health Metric** that is included in the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Incentive Metric set.
- Our role in developing the new child-level metric focused on issue-focused interventions for children with social-emotional issues.
- Training efforts for Integrated Behavioral Health and planned efforts for Primary Care.
- Efforts to Galvanize Action for Children with Health Complexity in Douglas County.

We have also included links to testimonies and public comments from parents, parent advocacy groups, primary care and behavioral health providers, and early learning providers. These voices passionately support the proposed child-level social-emotional health metric focused on issue-focused interventions and treatments developed by OPIP for inclusion in the CCO Incentive Metric set. We hope you take the time to listen and are inspired and moved by these stories that so beautifully articulate the **WHY** for our work.

Lastly, all this work is possible thanks to the small and quite mighty OPIP team, and the wonderful spirit of collaboration that thrives in Oregon.

In partnership,

Colleen Reuland, OPIP Director





NOVEL EFFORTS FOCUSED ON CHILDREN BIRTH-TO-FIVE OREGON TRANSFORMING PEDIATRICS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD (OR-TPEC)

The [Oregon Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood project](#) is a four-year cooperative agreement from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) (9/2022-9/2026).

The aims of this effort are to improve equitable access to a continuum of early childhood development (ECD) services in primary care settings for children birth-to-five and to improve the capacity of practices and the workforce to deliver high-quality ECD services that address the holistic needs of children and families.

- Through this effort, we are leading a Learning Collaborative of four primary care practices in the Portland metropolitan region (Hillsboro Pediatrics, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center-Cornelius, Randall Pediatrics, and Metropolitan Pediatrics-Johnson Creek) to enhance Early Childhood Development (ECD) expertise in their primary care settings, improve the continuum of ECD services provided in the practice, and enhance the knowledge and expertise of the primary care staff to better serve young children. Informed by these efforts, we are also working with health system leaders (including Health Share of Oregon) to understand how system and policies can be improved to align with the practice-level improvements and expertise needed in primary care.

Some highlights from the last year:

✓ The focus of the first Action Period was enhancing staff with Early Childhood Development (ECD) expertise within each site. All four primary care practices are enhancing integrated behavioral health services for children birth-to-five.

✓ The second and third Action Periods are focused on *Addressing the Social Emotional Needs of Young Children: Early Identification, Assessments, Brief Interventions, and Pathways to Additional Supports*. All four primary care practices are enhancing pathways to, engagement in, and breadth of integrated behavioral health services for children birth-to-five identified with social-emotional issues, enhancing social-emotional screening (3/4 sites) and standardizing follow-up, and improving their care coordination and system navigation supports for families to services such as specialty behavioral health. The current action period also includes a focus on primary care providers' role in providing education and coaching to parents on social-emotional issues identified.



✓ OPIP held a number of meetings with Health Share of Oregon and the Health Share of Oregon plan partners on policies and payment systems that can support ECD services within primary care and best match connections to external services such as specialty behavioral health and developmental-behavioral pediatricians.

✓ OPIP is currently working with partners in the Oregon Pediatric Society, with consultation and support from the American Academy of Pediatrics, on policy memos that address how health plans can ensure coverage of social-emotional services – in alignment with EPSDT requirements – and support value-based payment models that sustain early childhood developmental services in primary care settings.

INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (IBH) LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

OPIP has a contract with Health Share of Oregon, the largest CCO in the state, to support them and their regional plan partners in enhancing the social-emotional health of young children. This contract includes providing strategic consultation to Health Share of Oregon and the following initiatives:



Learning Collaborative for Integrated Behavioral Health: This initiative supports behavioral health staff in primary care practices that contract with a Health Share of Oregon plan partner. The goal of this Learning Collaborative is to enhance participants' ability to provide assessments and interventions for children birth-to-five in the primary care setting. Behavioral health clinicians receive CME credit for participation.

- **In-Person Learning Session:** On October 17, 2023, OPIP held an in-person Learning Session attended by 48 Integrated Behavioral Health Clinicians from 31 primary care practices that are attributed nearly 18,000 children birth-to-five covered by Health Share of Oregon. Participants rated the training highly, saying it met their needs of enhancing knowledge for specific assessments and interventions they could implement in a primary care setting to support young children's social-emotional health.
- **Learning Webinars:** Three follow-up webinars were held, focused on:
 1. **Trauma-Informed Approaches to Social-Emotional Concerns: First Steps Towards Healing** (led by Hayes Bakken, MD)
 2. **Connecting Families to External Specialty Behavioral Health and Engaging Families: Assets in the Portland Metro Region, Overview of Birth-to-Five Treatment Modalities, Strategies to Identify Best Match Services, Learnings in Engaging Families and Support System Navigation.**
 3. **Considerations for Billing by Integrated Behavioral Health Staff: From a Clinical Perspective**
- Based on the success of the 2023 Learning Collaborative, Health Share of Oregon provided OPIP with a contract to extend the learning collaborative through **2024**, which includes three components:
 - 1) **Monthly 1-hour webinars** delivering focused tools and strategies and ending with time for consultation. These webinars address common social-emotional issues in young children such as disruptive behavior, early childhood anxiety, sleep issues, and toilet training, and are presented by local and national expert faculty.
 - 2) **OPTIONAL Monthly 30-minute virtual office hours** with OPIP partner **Andrew Riley, PhD**, providing participants with guidance on applying the training to their patient cases.
 - 3) An **In-person Learning Session** scheduled for October 15, 2024, from 8am-12pm.
- Developing trainings for **Primary Care Providers** on their role in addressing social-emotional health issues in young children for Fall 2024. Information about these opportunities can be found here: <https://oregon-pip.org/our-projects/hso-pcp-trainings/>



Ensuring a Focus on Young Children: Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Incentive Metric on Social-Emotional Health

Measure Stewardship of the [System-Level Social-Emotional Health for Young Children Metric](#).

- **Development and Stewardship:** OPIP and CI developed the System-Level Social-Emotional Health metric, which has been in the incentive metric set for three years (including 2024). This has resulted in unprecedented focus on social-emotional services for young children in the CCO networks.
- **Role of OPIP:** OPIP now maintains the measure and serves as measure steward for the System-Level Social Emotional Health Metric. This involves answering questions about the metric, providing periodic presentations at committee meetings, and improving the 2024 proposed specifications with clarifications based on questions and feedback. We are grateful to The Ford Family Foundation for providing financial support to OPIP to play this critical measure stewardship role.
- **Transition to Child-Level Metric:** In alignment with the glidepath endorsed by the Health Plan Quality Metrics and Metrics and Scoring Committees, the System-Level Social-Emotional Health Metric will be replaced by a child-level metric (see below).

Development of the First-in-the-Nation [Child-Level Social-Emotional Health for Young Children Metric](#)

- **Child-Level Metric:** OPIP developed a child-level metric to measure and incentivize improvements based on child-level receipt of clinically recommended behavioral health care services provided by CCO-contracted providers and focused on addressing social-emotional issues that have been identified. In order to align with the original intent and vision of the metric, parent and provider feedback, and learnings from implementation of the System-Level Social-Emotional Health Metric, the child-level metric is focused on **issue-focused interventions or treatment services**. These issue-focused intervention services can be provided in an array of settings that the CCO contracts within order to fulfill their role of providing recommended behavioral health care.

o Specifications: The metric specifications can be found [here](#).

o Educational Webinar: To view webinar about the metric and hear from the OPIP parent advisors: [March 2024 Social Emotional Health Educational Webinar Recording](#)

- **Community Input & Support:** The metric was developed with input from over 160 individuals, including parents of young children enrolled in CCOs, parent advocacy organizations, primary care and behavioral health providers, and health system leaders. It received **significant public support** through written and oral public comments, with over 10 parents of young children enrolled in a CCO with lived experience in trying to access social-emotional services. OPIP created the [following video of the oral public comments](#) of support for the Child-Level Social Emotional Health Metric provided at the May and June Metrics & Scoring meetings.
- **Approval & Next Steps:** July 2024 Metrics and Scoring meeting is expected to finalize the 2025 incentive metric set and will be considering inclusion in the challenge pool set over the next few months.
- OPIP will be holding input sessions in August and early September to inform our presentation to the Metrics and Scoring Committee on recommendations and considerations for improvement benchmarks for this unique metric. In alignment with OPIP's commitment to ensure that all aspects of the measure development and implementation are community informed, we will be holding these input sessions to obtain community feedback on OPIP's draft recommendations and considerations for improvement benchmarks.

We are grateful to The Ford Family Foundation for financially supporting OPIP in developing this critical measure and for assisting with targeted outreach and communication strategies in rural communities.



Galvanizing Action for Children with Health Complexity in Douglas County & Consultation to Umpqua Health Alliance to Improve Social-Emotional Services for Young Children in Douglas County

- Completion of Galvanizing Action Work: In March 2024, OPIP completed the *Galvanizing Action for Children with Health Complexity in Douglas County* work. We extend our gratitude to The Ford Family Foundation for supporting this collective impact effort in Douglas County since 2019.

Efforts included:

- o Consultation on Intensive Care Coordination: OPIP provided Umpqua Health Alliance with models of Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) to better meet the needs of young children with health complexity who are not accessing recommended physical and behavioral health care.
- o Enhancing Behavioral Health Access: OPIP provided consultation, tools, and strategies to enhance behavioral health access in the region for children with health complexity. OPIP developed a set of materials and strategies on how to share information about behavioral health therapies for young children in Douglas County, aimed at informing best-match care. These materials and considerations for future iterations were provided to Umpqua Health Alliance and presented at the regional System of Care Meeting.
- Community-Level Efforts and Consultation in 2023: , OPIP contributed to community-level efforts led by Umpqua Health Alliance (UHA) by providing information about pediatric behavioral health services to be used by front-line health care providers, care coordinators, and parents/youth. Additionally, OPIP offered consultation and applied examples from population-based quality improvement efforts to help UHA enhance their understanding of current systems focused on social-emotional health services for young children and ways to improve family-centered services in Douglas County.

Welcome New Staff!



Tessa Kehoe, MPH OPIP Data and Improvement Training Coordinator

Tessa is joining the OPIP team in July 2024 as the Data and Improvement Training Coordinator. Previously, she worked in the Department of Pediatrics at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Tessa earned her Master of Public Health (MPH) from Boston University in 2021 and her Bachelor of Science from the University of Oregon in 2019. She is passionate about Maternal and Child Health and has experience in research and project management, with a focus on actively engaging marginalized communities.



Reece Jose, BS Senior Research Assistant

Reece, a proud graduate of Oregon State University with a degree in Biohealth Science, is dedicated to making healthcare accessible and effective for underserved communities. Passionate about patient advocacy and education, Reece aims to become a well-rounded healthcare provider with expertise in informatics and policy. Excited to contribute to the amazing work being done at OPIP, Reece also enjoys exploring Oregon's outdoors, engaging with the local food and music scenes, and advocating for those in need within healthcare.