



Practice Engagement (Peer-to-Peer Learning) Project

October 2020

Dear Healthcare Leader,

Welcome to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware, Practice Engagement (Peer-to-Peer) Learning Project. The [American Academy of Pediatrics – Orange County Chapter \(AAP-OC\)](#) has received grant funds from the Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to participate in the state's ACEs Aware initiative. AAP-OC will be conducting **peer-to-peer learning** and **quality improvement** to promote the ACEs Aware initiative among the Medi-Cal provider community in Orange County.

“AAP-OC is honored to be an ACEs Aware grant recipient and we are proud to be working in collaboration with OCDE and CHOC Health Alliance. Together we hope to create a synergistic model that we can share with other communities around the state and nation to help address our growing mental health crisis”, says Katherine Williamson, MD, FAAP, President of the AAP-OC.

The ACEs Aware Initiative

The ACEs Aware initiative seeks to change and save lives by helping Medi-Cal providers understand the importance of screening for ACEs and training them to respond with trauma-informed care.

ACEs Aware offers Medi-Cal providers training, screening tools, clinical protocols, and payment for screening children and adults for ACEs. The ACEs Aware initiative is part of a statewide effort to cut ACEs and toxic stress in half in one generation.

ACEs and toxic stress represent a public health crisis that has been, until recently, largely unrecognized by our health care system and our society. By screening for ACEs and responding with evidence-based interventions as well as implementing trauma-informed care, we can significantly improve the health and well-being of individuals and families.

What Will We Be Doing?

The goal of this project is to form a collaborative group of providers who will work together, develop best practices and increase the rate of ACEs screening in patients seen in pediatric or family practice clinics during the study period.

This project will include monthly online webinars, coupled with a kick-off meeting, two online learning sessions and a closing meeting. Practices will use the Model for Improvement's Plan-Do-



Study-Act (PDSA) cycle to plan and conduct interventions. Participation in the webinars and learning sessions will give practices access to additional resources adopted from ACEs Aware materials that have been developed internally.

Monthly Online Webinars

The monthly webinars will be approximately 1-hour in length and will take place during a time that best allows for physicians and their staff to attend. These webinars will occur on the same day and time each month, thus allowing practices to plan and ensure attendance. Regular agenda items for these webinars will include monthly data review, practice interventions/best practices, and occasional educational content or distribution of ACEs resources.

Learning Sessions

This project will include two learning sessions which are distinct from the monthly online webinars as they will contain more information and have been developed for the main purpose of training, equipping and educating participants to accomplish the goals of the ACEs Aware Initiative. Such topics will include the nuts and bolts of the project, the basics of ACEs and quality improvement techniques, the Model for Improvement, collecting data, and much more.

Quality Improvement (QI) and PDSAs

Quality improvement techniques and the Model for Improvement and PDSAs will be thoroughly explained during the first learning session which will then allow each practice site to make one change within their site for each of the 8 intervention months. Each month, you and your staff will use QI techniques to make small, measurable changes in your office practices. These interventions will be developed utilizing the Model for Improvement which include the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles. Interventions will be at the discretion of each site, allowing you and your staff to tailor changes to the unique workflow and challenge of each practice site.

Data Collection

For the project duration of 8 months, practice sites will be asked to provide data through the OC Children's Screening Registry. The project leadership will have access to all practice sites' data and will disseminate it to project members for the purpose of comparison and education. In this way, progress can be tracked and assessed for the success of each intervention.

Who Will Be Participating?

The ACEs P2P Project will consist of 50-75 Orange County Medi-Cal providers and their practice sites. A practice site is defined as each physical office in a group.

Each site must assign one Physician Lead. Other physicians and medical providers are strongly encouraged to participate to effectively test and implement changes. As quality care involves the entire office team, practices may consider inviting administrative, front, and back office staff



to attend learning sessions, monthly online webinars, as well as to help engage in planning, and interventions.

What Is Expected of Participants?

Each project member will be responsible for playing an active role in the interventions at each site and participating in learning sessions and monthly practice webinars. Each physician enrolling who seeks to receive MOC-4 credit for the project must attend a majority of peer learning sessions, as well as 'lead' at least one of the quality improvement change cycles utilizing the Model for Improvement. It is strongly encouraged that all project providers participate in each learning session, although it is understandable if not everyone can attend each session. Practice site representation will be required during each monthly online webinar.

What Is Our Timeline?

STAGE 1 (November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021)

In the first stage, using QI techniques, the providers will make changes in their workflow and evaluate the efficacy of these changes. Practices will review their existing strategies for ACEs screening of patients, if any. Using PDSA cycles, the practices will make small changes to their workflows each month with the goal of increasing the efficiency of screening.

STAGE 2 (February 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021)

Practices will expand screening to most, if not all, of their patients independent of their insurance status with the goal of a 10% increase in total screens each month during the duration of this stage. They will continue to make changes to their workflows to ensure that the screening can be effectively scaled up to the entire practice.

STAGE 3 (May 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021)

Practices will work collaboratively to develop and implement follow-up plans for patients who screen positive for ACEs (defined as 4 or more positive replies on the PEARLS screener). Follow up will be individualized but each practice should develop workflows to ensure that these patients can be tracked and receive interventions, when appropriate. The goal of this stage will be ensure that patients who screen as 'high risk' have appropriate follow up, whether this is through a mental health referral, a social work intervention, or other modalities deemed appropriate on a case-by-case basis.



What's In This For Me?

Part of the mission of the ACEs Aware initiative is to change and save lives by helping Medi-Cal providers understand the importance of screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and training them to respond with trauma-informed care. This project will serve to increase ACEs screenings in our practices, thus providing better care to our children. In addition, each participant will receive:

- Guidance in establishing ACEs screening in your practice
- MOC Part 4 Credit for pediatricians (25 hours)
- Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities
- Establish the OC Children's Screening Registry in your practice
- Quality Improvement Advisors to provide customized practice support
- Monthly online peer-to-peer meetings learning sessions
- Customized practice materials
- Collaboration with other physicians
- and much more!

If you are interested in participating in this learning collaborative and would like to participate, we kindly ask that each physician complete an enrollment survey which can be found here:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020AAPOC_ACEs

Thank you so much for your interest in our project and for your commitment to providing the best care for the children of Orange County!

Sincerely,

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