Whole Child Health Alliance

Quarterly Resource Scan: Quarter 3 (July 2023 – September 2023)

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Context

The [Whole Child Health Alliance](#) advances whole child health models that promote children's optimal health, development and well-being across the life course while improving health equity through delivery and payment reforms. This document highlights new literature published in the past quarter that supports the [key elements](#) of whole child health models. Nemours sourced the highlighted articles from leading public health, public policy and child health organizations and reviewing recent publications from subject matter experts in child health.

Throughout this document, text included in quotation marks has been directly pulled from the publication. Text that is not included in quotation marks has been summarized based on information and data included in the publication.

1. Timely Articles in Pediatrics

This section highlights articles relevant to current events in pediatric health that do not specifically pertain to one of the key elements. This quarter, many of the articles in this section pertain to pediatric mental, emotional and behavioral health.

[Medicaid Support for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: Lessons from Five States](#)

Authors: Kay Johnson and Elisabeth Wright Burak

Publication: Center for Children and Families

Publication Date: September 26, 2023

Publication Type: Report

Summary:
"Five states' journeys to strengthen Medicaid support for infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) – California, Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, and Washington — offer lessons for other states seeking to prevent, identify, and address mental health conditions among young children in Medicaid more effectively. Lessons speak to the importance of:

1. Leadership

2. Strategic Partnerships

3. Advocacy

4. Incremental Progress

5. Medicaid Policy Levers

6. Addressing the full Continuum of Care from Prevention to Treatment.

States seeking to apply the lessons from these and other states can get started in a number of ways depending on state policy context and political will: cultivating leadership, engaging a range of public and private partners, creating a strategic plan with clear priorities, linking IECMH to broader state health reform efforts,

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identifying state-specific Medicaid opportunities and taking steps toward health equity by engaging with and listening directly to families."

[CMS Issues Guidance on Medicaid and CHIP Services in School-Based Settings](#)

Authors:	Zoe Barnard, Carley Clemons, Jocelyn Guyer, Avi Herring, Cindy Mann, Madeleine Toups Tranchina, Ashley Traube
Publication:	Manatt Health
Publication Date:	August 2023
Publication Type:	Report

Summary:
"This brief summarizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) new guidance and highlights implications of the guidance for state agencies and local partners. The summary is tailored to meet the needs of state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies (SMAs), state education agencies (SEAs), and local education agencies (LEAs) to help demystify reimbursement and funding opportunities for school-based services (SBS) and support providers and advocates and anyone else with an interest in SBS. Specifically, this brief provides:
- Clarity about the role that Medicaid and CHIP can play in schools
- Background and context on the role of Medicaid and CHIP financing for SBS, how services have previously been provided in schools to children and youth enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, and how that has changed over time
- How services must be delivered in schools in order to comply with Medicaid and CHIP rules
- A deep dive on the financing opportunities detailed in the CMS guidance that support SBS for children and youth enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP."

[Fostering School-Based Behavioral Health Services: Key Recommendations for Policymakers and Philanthropy](#)

Authors:	Joshua Ogburn, Daniella Gratale, Laura Hogan, Kiera Peoples, Christine Comizio
Publication:	Nemours Children's Health
Publication Date:	September 2023
Publication Type:	Issue Brief

Summary:

"This brief provides an overview of school-based behavioral health services and funding sources, information on challenges and gaps, and recommendations for the technical assistance center, states and philanthropy."

The brief addresses the following topics: financial sustainability; care integration; workforce shortages; equity and prevention; and leveraging technology. This brief is a companion to "Fostering School-Based Health Services: Innovative and Promising Models, Policies and Practices From Across the Nation" (see summary below).

Fostering School–Based Behavioral Health Services: Innovative and Promising Models, Policies and Practices From Across the Nation

Authors:	Daniella Gratale, Joshua Ogburn, Laura Hogan, Kiera Peoples, Christine Comizio
Publication:	Nemours Children's Health
Publication Date:	September 2023
Publication Type:	Issue Brief

Summary:

This brief provides details on innovative models, existing policies, programs and tools regarding the implementation of school-based behavioral health services. This brief is a companion to "Fostering School-Based Health Services: Key Recommendations for Policymakers and Philanthropy" (see summary above).

Trends and Disparities in Firearm Deaths Among Children

Authors:	Bailey K. Roberts, Colleen P. Nofi, Emma Cornell, Sandeep Kapoor, Laura Harrison, Chethan Sathya
Publication:	Pediatrics
Publication Date:	August 21, 2023
Publication Type:	Research Article

Context

"This study aimed to evaluate new 2021 data on US pediatric firearm deaths and disparities to understand trends compared with previous years. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research was queried for firearm mortalities in children/adolescents from 2018 to 2021."

Results

"In 2021, firearms continued to be the leading cause of death among US children. From 2018 to 2021, there was a 41.6% increase in the firearm death rate. In 2021, among children who died by firearms, 84.8% were male, 49.9% were Black, 82.6% were aged 15 to 19 years, and 64.3% died by homicide. [...] US pediatric firearm deaths increased in 2021, above the spike in 2020, with worsening disparities. Implementation of prevention strategies and policies among communities at highest risk is critical."

Stressful Life Events and Healthcare Utilization Among U.S. Children Aged 2–17 Years

Authors: Lindsey I. Black, Amanda E. Ng, Benjamin Zablotsky

Publication: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Publication Date: August 8, 2023

Publication Type: Research Report

Context

"In this report, the latest stressful life events (SLE) estimates are examined for children aged 2–17 years in the United States and their associations with healthcare utilization. Data from the 2021 National Health Interview Survey were used to examine the percentage of children who experienced one or more SLEs—emotional abuse, unmet basic needs, experiences of racism, household mental illness, household substance abuse, parental incarceration, and exposure to neighborhood violence—and describe the association between SLEs and selected healthcare utilization indicators over the past 12 months."

Results

"In 2021, one in five children aged 2–17 years had ever experienced an SLE. In general, all SLEs were related to higher healthcare utilization (as in emergency department visits or mental health therapy) and unmet medical care needs. In general, no significant associations were found between experiencing SLEs and not receiving preventive health care. After adjusting for demographic characteristics, higher rates of healthcare utilization, unmet medical care needs, and mental healthcare utilization generally persisted for children with SLEs."

Covering Pediatric Screenings Through Medicaid: Key Decision-Making Factors

Authors: Madeline Steward and Armelle Casau

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: August 2023

Publication Type: Report

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Summary:

"This report can help child health stakeholders better understand opportunities and challenges associated with obtaining Medicaid approval for coverage of pediatric screenings. It also offers recommendations for how states can facilitate opportunities for Medicaid stakeholders to help inform pediatric screening coverage decisions and ultimately improve child health and well-being by:

- Strengthening the clinical evidence base around child health screenings;
- Ensuring screenings are implemented equitably; and
- Leveraging partnerships to improve education and guidance on implementing screening-related best practices."

2. Promoting Health Equity

This section lists resources focused on promoting health equity, which the Whole Child health Alliance defines as improving outcomes for historically marginalized populations who disproportionately experience suboptimal health outcomes.

Neighborhood Resource Access and Health Risks for Children Covered by Medicaid and CHIP

Authors: Alaisha Verdeflor, Genevieve M. Kenney, Doug Wissoker

Publication: The Urban Institute

Publication Date: August 18, 2023

Publication Type: Issue Brief

Context:

"This brief examines whether neighborhood conditions, including medical access, food hardship, housing, and environmental risks, vary with the share of children who rely on Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for health insurance coverage. [...] [The authors] examine these associations using the census tract of residence and data from the American Community Survey 2015–2019 5-Year Data, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Social Determinants of Health database, and the Environmental Justice Index developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease."

Results:

"Geographic areas where children rely on Medicaid and CHIP coverage at higher rates tend to have older housing stocks; higher rent burdens; lower food access; a greater likelihood of being designated as medically underserved or having shortages of primary care, dental, or mental health providers; and higher risks for cancer because of air pollution or a higher concentration of diesel particulate matter. They are also more likely to be near [...] Toxics Release Inventory sites

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compared with geographic areas with lower rates of children with Medicaid/CHIP coverage. [...] To effectively rectify the disparities in risk and access, Medicaid and communities must consider cross-sector, holistic efforts to address the root causes in order to advance child health equity."

[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Medical Home for Children Born Premature in the National Survey of Children's Health](#)

Authors: Brandon M. Smith, Palak P. Patel, Sara B. Johnson, Christina Bethell

Publication: Academic Pediatrics

Publication Date: July 29, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Context:

"The medical home aims to comprehensively address health and social needs of all families. This study evaluates [the] racial and ethnic disparities in the prevalence of [access to] a medical home among children born premature compared to children born full-term. A 2017–18 National Survey of Children's Health data set was used to calculate the medical home performance measure and subcomponents for children aged 0 to 17 born premature (n = 5633) or full-term (n = 45,819)."

Results:

"Minoritized children born premature had lower odds of receiving care in a medical home compared to NHW peers. [...] Differences were greater in magnitude among children born premature compared to full-term peer. [...] Racial and ethnic disparities exist in the medical home among children born premature, some more pronounced than full-term peers. To deliver equitable care for all children, efforts are needed to expand access to and improve the medical home, including reliable routine and sick care and stronger family-provider relationships."

3. Integrating Care Delivery and Social Supports

This section includes articles that describe integrated delivery models that address social drivers of health, developmental needs and caregiver relationships.

[Social and Medical Care Integration Practices Among Children's Hospitals](#)

Authors: Matthew S. Pantell, A. Jay Holmgren, Jana C. Leary, Bradley E. Iott, John Neuhaus, Julia Adler-Milstein, Laura M. Gottlieb

Publication: Hospital Pediatrics

Publication Date: September 18, 2023

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Publication Type: Research Article

Context:

"Little information is available about the current state of social risk–related care practices among children's hospitals. To address outstanding knowledge gaps, [the authors] sought to describe social risk–related care practices among a national sample of children's hospitals. [...] [The authors] analyzed responses to the 2020 American Hospital Association Annual Survey. [...] The sample included 82 children's hospitals."

Results:

"A total of 79.6% screened for [SDOH] and 96.0% had strategies to address at least 1 social risk factor, although rates varied by SDOH domain. Children's hospitals more commonly partnered with community-based organizations to address patient-level social risks than to participate in community-level initiatives. A total of 39.2% of hospitals assessed SDOH intervention effectiveness. [...] [The authors] found wide variability in social risk–related care practices among children's hospitals based on the risk domain and hospital characteristics. Findings can be used to monitor whether social risk–related care practices change in the setting of new incentives."

4. Aligning Care for Families

This section provides resources that focus on aligning care for families, which the Whole Child Health Alliance defines as utilizing multi-generational approaches that seek to improve the health and well-being of parents and other caregivers in tandem with the child.

Assurance of Transportation: A Medicaid Transportation Coverage Guide

Publication: Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Publication Date: September 28, 2023

Publication Type: Guidance

Summary:

"This guidance serves as a consolidated and comprehensive compilation of Medicaid transportation policy, providing a one-stop transportation resource for states on federal requirements and state flexibilities. The Medicaid Transportation Coverage Guide largely highlights existing policies but also includes new policies to address scenarios for extended wait times and long-distance trips, and scenarios where non-Medicaid eligible parents, family members, or other caregivers may require transportation to participate in a Medicaid eligible child's care."

Transforming Child Health and Family Well-being

Authors: Charlene Wong, Kenya McNeal-Trice

Publication: North Carolina Medical Journal

Publication Date: September 1, 2023

Publication Type: Issue Brief

Summary:

This brief highlights the articles included in this edition of the North Carolina Medical Journal, which "describe the scope of the challenges facing children and families in North Carolina and approaches to improving their health and well-being in priority areas including behavioral health, child welfare, early care and education, and nutrition." The issue "[outlines] the key practices and the necessary partnerships vital to North Carolina's efforts to address the mental, physical, emotional, and social needs of children and families".

Housing is a Barrier for Parenting Students

Authors: Ellie Kaverman

Publication: Center for the Study of Social Policy

Publication Date: September 2023

Publication Type: Issue Brief

Summary:

"In 2022, the Center for the Study of Social Policy and [CalWORKs Association's] Project SPARC conducted research to better understand the barriers experienced by parenting students participating in CalWORKs, California's cash assistance program for families with children. This brief highlights findings from the research on parenting students' experiences with housing."

Results:

"Many families report not having stable housing or being unhoused for long periods, making it impossible to achieve economic security. The lack of affordable housing and the lack of housing assistance are significant barriers as parenting students work toward their education and career goals."

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[Scaling Family Voices and Engagement to Measure and Improve Systems Performance and Whole Child Health: Progress and Lessons from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative](#)

Authors:	Christina D. Bethell, Nora Wells, David Bergman, Colleen Reuland, Scott P. Stumbo, Narangerel Gombojav & Lisa A. Simpson
Publication:	Maternal and Child Health Journal
Publication Date:	August 25, 2023
Publication Type:	Journal Article

Summary:

In 1996, "the National Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) public-private collaboration was launched to put families at the center of defining, measuring and using healthcare performance information to drive improved services quality and outcomes." This article highlights "CAHMI's contributions to the fundamental role of measurement based on the voices of families to drive continued systems changes. […] Lessons call for a restored, sustainable family and community engaged measurement infrastructure, public activation campaigns, and undeterred federal, state and systems leadership that implement policies to incentivize, resource, measure and remove barriers to integrated systems of care that scale family engagement to equitably promote whole child, youth and family well-being. Population health requires effective family engagement."

5. Supporting a Diverse, Multi-disciplinary Workforce

This section includes articles that focus on supporting a diverse, multi-disciplinary workforce that helps to foster trusting relationships with those served and optimize outcomes.

[The Pediatric Subspecialty Workforce and Its Impact on Child Health and Well-Being](#)

Authors:	Eleanor Lauderback, Eve Mefferd, Soumita Bose, Heather Sandstrom, Erica Greenberg
Publication:	Urban Institute
Publication Date:	September 12, 2023
Publication Type:	Research Report

Summary:

"This report outlines recommendations that, if fully implemented, can improve the quality of pediatric medical subspecialty care through a well-supported, superbly trained, and appropriately used primary care, subspecialty, and physician-scientist workforce." [...] "Achieving a robust subspecialty workforce will require concerted efforts across federal and state governments, pediatric professional societies, major pediatric education and training organizations, medical schools and fellowship programs, and health systems, with input from patients and families. It will also require a willingness to adapt to the changing needs of children and clinicians and a changing health care delivery system, while investing in the necessary time and resources. Implementing all of these recommendations in combination with other necessary supports to primary care will result in a health care system that serves the needs of all children and improves the health of the nation."

[Child Care Staffing and Enrollment in the Wake of the Pandemic](#)

Authors: Eleanor Lauderback, Eve Mefferd, Soumita Bose, Heather Sandstrom, Erica Greenberg

Publication: Urban Institute

Publication Date: August 16, 2023

Publication Type: Research Report

Context:

"In this report, [the authors] share findings from individual and small group interviews conducted in late 2022 and early 2023 with child care program directors in DC to learn about their recent experiences with enrollment and staffing amid the pandemic."

Results:

"Nearly all program directors reported significant drops in enrollment during the peak of the pandemic and a slow return to pre-pandemic enrollment levels over the past year. Program directors cited parental unease with group care settings because of COVID-19 infection risk, discomfort with their inability to enter child care facilities, and financial hardship during the pandemic as key drivers of lower enrollment and slow recovery to pre-pandemic levels. [...] Program directors described their struggles recruiting and retaining qualified staff, finding a limited number of applicants who have both the required credentials and the passion and commitment to caring for children needed for this work."

6. Advancing Financing Reforms that Incentivize Optimal Health

This section lists resources that pertain to value-based payment models that align with integrated delivery models that advance long-term outcomes.

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Principles of Child Health Care Financing

Authors: Alison A. Galbraith, Jonathan Price, Claire Abraham, Angelo P. Giardino

Publication: Pediatrics

Publication Date: August 28, 2023

Publication Type: Policy Statement

Summary:

"The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) believes that the United States can and should ensure that all children, adolescents, and young adults from birth through the age of 26 years who reside within its borders have affordable access to high-quality comprehensive health care. Comprehensive, high-quality care addresses issues, challenges, and opportunities unique to children and young adults and addresses the effects of historic and present inequities. [...] The AAP believes that child health care financing should be based on the following guiding principles:

- Coverage with quality, affordable health insurance should be universal;

- Comprehensive pediatric services should be covered;

- Cost sharing should be affordable and should not negatively affect care;

- Payment should be adequate to strengthen family- and patient-centered medical homes;

- Child health financing policy should promote equity and address longstanding health and health care disparities; and

- The unique characteristics and needs of children should be reflected."

Developing Financially Sustainable Child Health Transformation: Lessons from Primary Care Innovators

Authors: Kelsey Brykman, Lauren Scannelli Jacobs, and Armelle Casau

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: August 2023

Publication Type: Brief

Summary:

"Health care provider organizations serving children often face financial barriers to providing more comprehensive and patient-centered care, particularly for children in communities that are marginalized. This brief describes existing payment barriers and opportunities for primary care providers serving children to work toward financially sustaining care transformation. It draws from interviews with pediatric practices and subject matter experts engaged in the national

Accelerating Child Health Transformation initiative. To support long-term funding for care delivery improvements, pediatric primary care practices may consider strategies such as: engaging in early sustainability planning, leveraging data to align with payer goals, developing long-term relationships with payers, and supporting multi-stakeholder collaborations."

7. Incentivizing Cross-Sector Data Partnerships

This section lists resources that focus on facilitating the exchange and integration of data across sectors to promote connections to resources in the community. Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q3 2023 relevant to this key element.

8. Fostering Healthy Communities

This section includes resources that focus on engaging community members and other stakeholders to ensure approaches meet local needs. Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q3 2023 relevant to this key element.

9. Assessing Quality Improvement and Performance

This section includes resources that focus on measuring the impact of integrated delivery models on key patient outcomes, including measures that go beyond medical care. Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q3 2023 relevant to this key element.