

Community Clinical Systems Integration Initiative – Home Visiting

Statement of Problem

A growing body of research links social and environmental factors facing communities directly to a multitude of health inequities. Fragmented and siloed community supports and health delivery systems further complicate and add to the complexities that families face when navigating services. Integrating health care with that of community maternal and child home visiting services is a promising strategy to re-envision preventive care in a way that holistically and intentionally approaches a family's care and improves health outcomes across diverse populations. The benefits of evidence-based home visiting have been well-documented and include improvements in parenting approaches, family well-being, preventive health care engagement and connection to social resources.

Despite increasing interest by policymakers in deploying home visiting solutions for families of young children, realizing the maximum potential of these services requires systems-level change to bridge these community-based preventive services with care provided in a clinical setting. While a call for uniting these services has been raised by maternal and child health leadership, actual efforts to meaningfully re-envision service delivery to communities have been limited.

Description

Effective equity-focused population health strategies must include a response to social determinants of health while meaningfully connecting health systems to community services. In 2018, with the generous support of the Vanguard Strong Start for Kids initiative, PolicyLab developed and began to pilot Community Clinical Systems Integration (CCSI), an initiative recognizing that current fragmentation contributes not only to system inefficiencies but, more importantly, structural barriers to the receipt of quality, trusted care for families across all family-serving systems.

We launched the CCSI home visiting integration strategy—a model that utilizes evidence-based nurse-led home visiting services as part of the clinical care team—within Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) pediatric primary care network. The goal of this strategy is to create a transformative, sustainable model that centers public health nurse home visitors as a bridge between preventive care delivery systems in home and clinical settings using a shared staffing model.

By identifying areas of alignment between providers, our efforts aim to improve patient care by creating consistent communication between the nurse home visitor, families and the child's pediatric provider. Through the intentional integration of these services, we seek to create efficiencies and reduce burden, enhance coordination of care for patients, improve the sustainability of quality services and, most importantly, improve health outcomes for families served.

Early implementation of this strategy reveals that a stronger, more coordinated care team that extends the health system's reach into the communities it serves offers tremendous opportunity to move the needle on

complex public health issues. Over the last few years, CCSI has:

- built a strong business model that maintains a home visitor's employment with their community-based organization, ensuring replicability across health systems and community-based providers
- integrated nurse home visitor documentation of critical points of care delivered into the patient's electronic health care record
- conducted a robust evaluation of these efforts

Preliminary research findings underscore the value of team-based care with impacts on patient outcomes such as well-child visit adherence and immunization compliance as well as patient and provider satisfaction.

Next Steps

While we have experienced considerable progress, full integration of home visitor care within the clinical care setting rests on the ability to avoid duplicative services and reallocate resources in ways that provide the best care for families. CCSI continues to work towards the creation of an uninterrupted primary care experience for families with fluid communication between all parties (including the patient), as well as aligned billing, documentation, finances and workflows.

As we continue to develop this integrated model of care, we aim to:

- Continue to refine the staffing model shared between family home visiting programs and pediatric primary care and expand to a second community-based provider to serve more children in the Philadelphia community.
- Improve efficiencies in documentation and communication workflows to enhance patient and provider experience and outcomes.
- Continue to evaluate the incremental value of this integrated staffing model on child health outcomes and utilization.
- Disseminate research findings and best practice recommendations for home visitor integration of community practice and primary care.
- Collaborate with other health systems to identify opportunities that support replication of the model beyond one health system.
- Investigate and develop a financial model that generates a sustainable path for CCSI efforts.

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PolicyLab Leads

Meredith Matone

DrPH, MHS

Director

Dr. Matone's research interests include maternal and young child health, as well as family well-being. She focuses on building community and public agency research partnerships to support improvements in policies and programs that serve mothers and infants in under-resourced communities. She is experienced in large-scale program evaluation, mixed-methods research designs, and use of administrative data for observational study designs in areas of child and caregiver health.

Dr. Matone is a senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, a faculty affiliate at The Field Center, and a board member of the Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Youth Children. Dr. Matone received her Doctor of Public Health, specializing in child and adolescent health and development, from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is an alumnus of the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being program and a former Stoneleigh Foundation fellow.



Meredith Matone

DrPH, MHS

Email: MatoneM@chop.edu

Tara Dechert

MS

Clinical Research Program Manager

Tara Dechert (she/her) is a clinical research program manager at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She oversees the implementation of initiatives that bridge care between home and community-based services with office-based pediatric preventive care delivery systems to positively impact child health. Ms. Dechert's work aims to ensure that pregnant women and their children receive the best possible care by providing a holistic approach to their overall health, well-being and education. To be successful, a goal of this work is to improve efficiencies across service delivery systems by focusing on intentional coordination of obstetrical and pediatric care with that of community health nursing and early childhood efforts.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Dechert has worked to improve policies, services, research and outcomes for vulnerable children and families—all with an emphasis on quality and public/private resource

efficiency. She has extensive experience in the not-for-profit and government sectors conducting assessment and evaluation of policies and government-funded programs as well as advocacy and strategic planning. Areas of expertise include evidence-based program development and implementation and community health nursing through home visiting. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Elizabethtown College and a Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University.



Tara Dechert

MS

Email: DECHERTTE@CHOP.EDU

Team

Kali Hackett **MSW, MPH**

Research Study Manager

Kali Hackett is a research study manager at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In this role, she leads various maternal and child health projects, with a particular focus on the implementation and evaluation of intergenerational programs and interventions. Ms. Hackett is a public health social worker with significant experience supporting young children, parents, and families both in direct service capacities and through research and policy. Her approach to this work focuses on ensuring that children, caregivers, and families have the necessary resources, knowledge, quality care and support to thrive. Ms. Hackett received her Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Kali Hackett

MSW, MPH

Email: HACKETTK@CHOP.EDU

Katherine Kellom

Administrative Manager

Katherine Kellom (she/they) is an administrative manager at PolicyLab and the director of the Qualitative Research Core at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She has worked at nationally top-ranked institutions with teams comprised of experts in their fields conducting qualitative, mixed and multi-method research for more than ten years. Beginning as a research assistant at the University of Pennsylvania's Mixed Methods Research Lab, Katherine currently serves across a variety of project teams to provide conceptual and technical support for clinical and community-based research projects. She has extensive knowledge and valuable practical experience applying qualitative research methodologies with a focus on integrating key stakeholder perspectives and goals into research designs.

Katherine leads and advises project teams using qualitative methods to achieve research aims on projects ranging from small pilots to state-wide, mixed-methods evaluations. Katherine is an expert in facilitation techniques and in the use of the qualitative data analysis tool, NVivo; she provides training in both areas. As director of the Qualitative Research Core, Katherine manages and supports staff members and qualitative team members in the Core and at PolicyLab, ensuring skillset development and access to the resources needed to contribute high-quality work to various project teams.

Katherine received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Bryn Mawr College in 2009, majoring in psychology.



Katherine Kellom
Email: KellomK@chop.edu

Jennifer Whittaker

PhD, MUP

Research Scientist

Jennifer Whittaker (she/her) is a research scientist at PolicyLab and the senior manager of qualitative methods training and program development with the Qualitative Research Core at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

Dr. Whittaker has over a decade of experience conducting qualitative and mixed-method research, with a particular focus on community-engaged research. As a member of the Qualitative Research Core, she develops and leads training in qualitative research methods and provides research design and conceptual support to research teams across CHOP. At PolicyLab, Dr. Whittaker is a member of the maternal health research team where her work focuses on the role of place and public systems in supporting maternal and child health. She serves as the staff lead for the Family and Community Health Portfolio and is an advisory board member for the Community Partnerships in Research program. She is also a member of CHOP's Qualitative Methods Research Affinity Group, a fellow at University at Pennsylvania's Center for Public Health Initiatives and a board member for the Pennsylvania Rural Health Association.

An alumnus of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Policy Research Scholars Leadership Development Program, Dr. Whittaker is trained in interdisciplinary, applied and policy-oriented scholarship. She completed her PhD in city planning at the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design, where her research led

to [Our Rural Pennsylvania](#), an atlas created by mothers and caregivers to record the everyday places that influence their health. She completed her master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University at Buffalo and her bachelor's degree in geography at the State University of New York at Geneseo. Prior to coming to Philadelphia, Dr. Whittaker was a research associate at the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab where she conducted research on the role of local government policy and planning in facilitating healthy communities.



Jennifer Whittaker
PhD, MUP
Email: WhittakerJ@chop.edu

Diya Nag **MPH, CHES**

Clinical Research Coordinator

Diya Nag (they/she) is a clinical research coordinator at PolicyLab and the Qualitative Research Core at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In this role, she supports research surrounding service coordination for home-visited families experiencing intimate partner violence as well as the integration of home visiting into clinical systems. Additionally, Diya works on school-based projects aimed at increasing student access to mental health services. She lends support through her expertise in qualitative research methods including conducting interviews, focus groups and qualitative coding analysis.

Previously, Diya worked as a sexual health educator in Philadelphia high schools. During their graduate studies, they completed research regarding barriers to accessing quality fertility, pregnancy, and birth care for transgender men and nonbinary people. Additionally, they were a part of the LGBTQ Health Projects Team at the NYC Department of Health.

Diya received her bachelor's degrees in biology and in science, technology, and society from Vassar College and her Master of Public Health from Columbia University.



Diya Nag
MPH, CHES
Email: nagm@chop.edu

Mia Wilson

Clinical Research Assistant

Mia Wilson is a clinical research assistant at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Ms. Wilson joined the maternal & child health team in January 2023 to facilitate and implement projects that aim to improve the health and well-being of mothers, caregivers and parents. The two projects she is working on are HealthySteps, a pediatric primary care model that supports healthy early childhood development, positive parenting and caregiver well-being; and the Community Clinical Systems Integration – Home Visiting (CCSI-HV), a model that utilizes evidence-based nurse-led home visiting services as part of the clinical care team within CHOP's pediatric primary care network.

Ms. Wilson graduated from Elon University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Art in Public Health. She has had previous experience in undergraduate research analyzing maternal health disparities within the Black community and other communities of color, which was titled, "Un-Masking the Origins of Maternal Morbidity Inequities (UMOMMI)." She also has experience as an intern with the maternal health organizations Black Mothers in Power and Women & Children's Center Moses Cone Hospital Doula Services. She plans to pursue her master's degree and PhD in Public Health.



Mia Wilson

Email: wilsonm15@chop.edu

Funders of Project

Vanguard Strong Start for Kids

Project Contact

Tara Dechert

DECHERTTE@chop.edu

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[A Qualitative Exploration of Co-location as an Intervention to Strengthen Home Visiting Implementation in Addressing Maternal Child Health](#)

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[Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Request for Public Comment: Subsidized Child Care Eligibility Requirements](#)

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[Policy Considerations to Ensure Accessible and Quality Child Care](#)

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[Breaking Down Silos: Developing Effective Coordination of Early Childhood Development Resources and Systems](#)

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