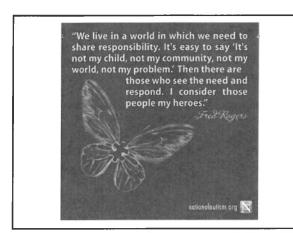
Addressing Family Strengths and Concerns:

Deborah Greenhouse MD FAAP



 We cannot help families unless we meet them where they are. And we cannot meet them where they are unless we ask the right questions.

What is PRESIPS2

- Bright Futures Preventive Services Improvement State Spread Project
- Partnership between selected chapters and state Maternal and Child Health stakeholders to improve Bright Futures implementation

What counts as meeting Bright Futures requirements for select measures?

- Family Strengths: A particular place in the visit note where family strengths are recorded. Preferably in a part of the plan that is shared with families (PRESIPS2 measures 6 and 7)
- Family Concerns: Any notation in the chart note for the visit, either in a designated spot or as free text and/or Use of the Bright Futures Pre-Visit Questionnaire or something similar. When family concerns are recorded, there must also be a notation that they were addressed (PRESIPS2 measures 1 and 2)

What counts as meeting Bright Futures requirements for select measures?

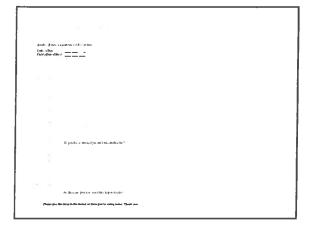
 Social and Environmental Determinants of health-A screen such as the SEEK documented as having been used with actions taken based upon results, or other similar criteria determined by the practice. (PRESIPS2 measures 8 and 9)

3 simple questions, 1 simple screen

- Question 1- Do you have any questions? (family concerns)
- Question 2- Do you have any concerns? (family concerns)
- Question 3- What do you think has gone really well for your child and your family recently? (family strengths)
- And the screen- SEEK (social and environmental determinants of health)

SEEK- How can we use these results to help families?

- Do your homework first.
- · Compile resources and contacts.
- Know your practice demographics. The concerns of a family living in rural Clinton, SC may be very different from those of a family living in downtown Columbia. Their potential resources will vary greatly as well.



My minimally scientific study- 25 consecutive SEEK screens

- Firearm ownership- 12
- Passive Smoke Exposure- 4 (but beware of the wording of the question- Does anyone smoke tobacco at home?)
- Depression-2
- Child is difficult to Care For- 2
- Food Insecurity- 3
- Need Poison Control number- 2
- Domestic Violence- 1

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What have I learned from using SEEK?

- Our families own a lot of firearms. Most, but definitely not all of them, are stored safely.
- Food insecurity is a significant problem for many of our families and seems to be positively correlated with obesity.
- Depression is a major problem for some of our families and they may not mention it if we don't screen for it.

What have we learned from SEEK?

 Few of our families report a history of domestic violence but those who do are usually struggling and in need of support and resources.

What have we learned from SEEK

- Helping a family to recognize and appreciate their strengths can help to open the conversations to address their concerns. Social and Environmental determinants of health factor strongly into this.
- Ex. "So you've mentioned that you wish you had more help with your child. Tell me what type of help you have right now."
- "Oh, so you have your aunt and your mother helping you twice a week. It's great that your child gets to spend time with them. Let's talk about other ways that you might be able to get some help."

How can we elicit Family Strengths?

- Strengths can be elicited from general questions, conversation generated by the SEEK, PSC, PSC-Y or from the Healthy Habits Questionnaire (Obesity Toolkit)
- Are you reading with your child?
- Do you eat meals together as a family?
- . Do you exercise together as a family?

Bright Futures Strengths

- · Many topics covered
- · Questions are easy to understand
- Good smoke exposure question- Does your child live with anyone who uses tobacco or spend time in any place where people smoke?

Bright Futures Weaknesses

- Too many topics covered- A visit addressing all of the potential issues listed would take hours.
- Some of the questions are simply too broad- ie. Have any of your baby's relatives developed new medical problems since your last visit? Please describe.

How do we incorporate this at Palmetto Pediatrics?

- Parental concerns are elicited and documented by the staff when the patient is initially brought to the exam room. Responses are documented by the physician.
- SEEK used at well visits under age 6 which do not involve another major screen. All parents are given a resource sheet even if the results are negative.
- Concerns from the SEEK documented and responses documented. Screen is automatically billed when it is checked off by the MD
- Working on documenting family successes. Adding documentation for reading together, eating together, exercising together. Definitely a work in progress.



Where can we document Family Strengths?

Within the History or Care Plan section of the well visit note

(fairly easy to document and to track)

 Within free text areas of the well visit note (easy to document, more difficult to track) How about the Bright Futures Questionnaire?

