Family Engagement Chapter Grant Announcement

The Family Partnerships Network is thrilled to announce 7 Family Engagement Chapter Grant award winners. Each awarded chapter will receive $4,000 (funded by AAP Friends of Children Fund) to engage youth/families in a diverse set of activities. Below is a list of the chapters that were awarded, along with the title and description of their respective projects.

**Colorado**

The **Colorado Family Engagement Network for cCMV** will provide an opportunity for AAP-CO to partner with families impacted by cCMV and create an impactful, sustainable, parent-requested, and parent-informed Colorado Family Engagement Network for cCMV. Through Colorado Family Engagement Network for cCMV, families will be offered the opportunity to engage with a cCMV parent support network, access accurate, current information on cCMV, and get optimal clinical care and therapy for cCMV. We hope that this important addition to existing initiatives will increase the number of children with cCMV and hearing impairment who are identified in Colorado, improving their access to each other and to existing resources within the State.

**Illinois**

The **Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) Advocacy Family Engagement Partnership** will support a parent/family engagement partner in Chapter activities related to the core competency of advocacy. This includes appointing a parent/family representative to attend and participate in ICAAP’s annual Lobby Day (Spring), attend and participate in ICAAP’s annual conference (Winter), attend and participate in AAP’s annual Legislative Conference (Spring), and collaborate with ICAAP and other organizations in discussion of policy and advocacy initiatives related to the health and well-being of children and families [as supported by ICAAP’s Executive Committee (EC) and Executive Staff].

**Louisiana**

Through the **Stay Safe and Mask Up!** project, the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (LA AAP) wants to help families follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics that children over the age of 2 should wear face masks when in public as precautionary measures against COVID-19.

Most masks that are readily available at free or low cost are fitted for adults and do not fit children properly therefore not providing the full protective measure. This project aims to change that. The LA AAP will work with several individuals to make child sized masks. LA AAP will engage youth and family members in the development of educational materials to be distributed with the face masks. The printed materials will feature messaging and images developed by youth and families promoting mask wearing, when and how to securely wear masks in addition to other personal hygiene measures to stay safe and healthy (handwashing, covering cough, etc.). Depending on the comfort level of the youth involved, we may also create a few short videos with the same messages. The masks and educational materials will be distributed to high-risk families identified through community partners and LA AAP members.

**Maryland**

The goal of the **Launching Family and Youth Engagement** project will be to systematize parent and youth involvement in the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP). The project will begin with a family/professional partnership event in the fall of 2020 hosted by MDAAP featuring three guest speakers. The first will be Josie Thomas, the founder and former Executive Director of the state Family Voices chapter, Parents’ Place of...
Maryland (PPMD). The second will be Pattie Archuleta, a Family Engagement and Training Specialist with the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF), a statewide nonprofit organization that supports, connects and empowers families who care for someone with behavioral health needs. The third will be a trained youth leader from the MCF. These speakers will educate MDAAP members on the multiple models of family and youth engagement in health care systems, outline the mutual benefits achieved, and begin a dialogue about what format may be most appropriate for our chapter. Following the kickoff event, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Archuleta and the youth representative will be invited to attend one of our chapter events such as the Annual Meeting or a general membership meeting, as well as an MDAAP Board of Directors meeting. At this meeting, we will review the discussion from the dinner event and the feedback from other chapters to develop a plan for systematic family and youth engagement in our chapter. Finally, at least one family and one youth representative will attend our MDAAP Advocacy Day in February 2021. This will allow a stakeholder perspective in our discussions with the legislators, and will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn political advocacy skills.

Michigan
The goal of the Family Engagement and Parent/Pediatrician Podcast is to improve pediatrician, patient and familial dynamics and to provide comprehensive educational content to pediatricians in the context of improving their patient care and engagement. The Chapter podcast will be moderated by a member of the Chapter’s board, Dr. Amrit Misra, and will explore various primary care topics such as “Safe Sleep,” “Youth Depression and Suicidality,” “Immunizations” and “Adverse Child Experiences.” Through exploration and education around the covered topics, the pediatrician participants will be encouraged to more comprehensively engage their patients and families in meaningful interaction related to the topics. Each podcast will have a “family engagement” segment, where the topic will be discussed in the context of improving patient and family interaction. This intentional “family engagement” segment will create continuity for the project overall and will ensure meeting the goal of the project.

Minnesota
The goal of the Promoting Immunizations with Parent Partners project is to promote the safety, efficacy, and importance of vaccines in partnership with families in Minnesota, and to dispel myths circulating on social media. The chapter will accomplish this goal through a parent advisory committee, who can provide input and feedback on various strategies to reach families, including webinars, and a one-page fact sheet. The parent advisory committee will be developed in partnership with the Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition (MCIC), an organization that has begun partnering more closely with MNAAP in recent months to promote immunizations. MCIC has agreed to identify 3-5 parents who can advise and meet with MNAAP on efforts to reduce vaccine hesitancy among parents. This group will commit to meeting with chapter leadership 1-2 times per year, in person, if possible. Two outcomes of this advisory committee will be a one-page fact sheet for parents to help them understand the importance of community immunity in Minnesota. The advisory committee members will provide feedback on the design and messaging as well as input on the best way to disseminate the one-pager. A second outcome will be a webinar for parents in a target community with low vaccination rates. In Minnesota, there are multiple pockets of undervaccinated children that have been identified. The advisory committee will provide input on the content and a parent will co-host the webinar with a pediatrician expert.

Washington, DC
The aims of the Patient and Family-Centered Approach to Overcoming the Stigma and Barriers Surrounding Referrals and Treatment of Childhood Obesity project are to determine the barriers to referral of local families to comprehensive pediatric weight management programs, and involve community patients and families (5-6). The goal is to help inform the chapter membership regarding the experiences of patients living with severe obesity and work
together to overcome these barriers and improve the patient and family experience. This will be done with a three-step approach: 1) Conduct surveys of patients and families through community organizations and clinics in the DC area to help identify barriers to pediatric obesity treatment as well as DC chapter primary care providers to determine difficulties that they experience with referrals to comprehensive pediatric weight management clinics. 2) Based upon the identified barriers to treatment, create a panel of patients and families who have undergone obesity treatment through medical or surgical intervention and utilize local experts in obesity science, medicine, and implicit bias to help lead a panel discussion with patients, families, and our local chapter members to discuss how to overcome these barriers. 3) Based on the outcomes of the surveys and panel discussions the Chapter will advocate for our families and patients with obesity. These advocacy efforts will include interested patients and family members. For instance, if insurance coverage of treatment is identified as a possible barrier, we will involve chapter members, key stakeholders, and patients and family members to advocate for better insurance coverage.

Projects began on July 1, 2020 and will run through June 30, 2021. Lessons learned from each of project will be shared once the projects are complete. Please contact Lauren Barone at lbarone@aap.org if you have any questions.