HRSA-19-060: PROJECT ABSTRACT

PROJECT TITLE: Reaching out for Epilepsy in Adolescents and Children through Telemedicine

ORGANIZATION NAME: Children’s Mercy

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GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED: $416,000 per year for four years, totaling $1,664,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that, for Children and Youth with Epilepsy CYE, access to high-quality healthcare requires improved access to pediatric neurologists; a collaborative, patient/family-centered and team-based approach to care; a better-informed primary care workforce; public education and awareness; and engaging multiple stakeholders. (1)

98.8% of the population in the State of Kansas is classified as being rural. Nearly 75% of the state qualifies as Health Professional Shortage Area according to the Bureau of Health Workforce. Furthermore, the largest city in the state, Kansas City, sits at its very eastern edge. The project described in this application, Reaching out for Epilepsy in Adolescents and Children through Telemedicine (REACT), is designed to respond to the AAP’s call to action for CYE. Its primary end goals are to increase access to quality coordinated healthcare in a patient/family-centered medical home for CYE residing in rural and medically underserved areas in the state of Kansas. This project will link pediatric specialists with Primary Care Providers (PCP) in rural and medically-underserved communities of Kansas, providing remote access to epileptologists for both patient care and staff education and training. Children’s Mercy Kansas City (CMKC) and the participating PCPs will provide comprehensive care, using best-practices, to CYE where they live.

The project will achieve these goals by implementing six quality improvement (QI) projects:

1. Improving access to epileptologists via TM
2. Improving the psychological care of CYE
3. Improving provider comfort level in managing CYE
4. Increasing PCPs who report increased co-management of CYE
5. Increasing the number of CYE who complete healthcare transition readiness
6. Improving family engagement in the care of CYE

We believe that implementation of these six QI projects will help develop a strong collaboration between PCPs and epilepsy specialists at CMKC. The PCP will become much more comfortable in diagnosing and treating epilepsy and will develop a close relationship with CMKC specialists. In addition, through our Shared Decision Making program, we will endeavor to engage families of CYE. This will result in better care of CYE in the state of Kansas, decreasing morbidity and mortality, increasing patient satisfaction and improving the use of medical resources overall.

FUNDING PREFERENCE: This project does not have funding preferences.