PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title:	Michigan's Project to Transform Health Care for Children and Youth with Epilepsy (CYE)
Organization:	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)
Address:	Lewis Cass Building, 320 S. Walnut, 6th Floor, Lansing, MI 48913
Project Director:	Lonnie Barnett, MPH
Phone Number:	(517) 241-7186 Fax: (517) 241-8970
Email Address:	BarnettL@michigan.gov
Web Site Address:	www.michigan.gov/mdhhs
Funds Requested:	$416,000

PROBLEM: Michigan lacks well-coordinated systems of care for children and youth with epilepsy between primary care providers, specialists, and local community resources. As a result, children and youth with epilepsy – particularly those in rural and underserved communities – have uneven access to comprehensive health services, educational resources, and support for the development of self-management skills. Moreover, primary care providers have limited tools to meet the needs of CYE and their families.

GOAL: The goal of this project is to improve health outcomes among Michigan's children and youth with epilepsy (CYE), especially those in rural and underserved areas, through better support for health care transition, improved communication among providers, expanded access to telehealth/telemedicine services, and better training in shared decision-making.

STRATEGIES: Using a Quality Improvement (QI) Network this project will support implementation of transition readiness assessment tools and follow-up strategies; enhanced support for transition topics through in-person and technology-enhanced educational and skill-building options; adoption of practices to facilitate communication, collaboration, and/or co-management between PCPs and specialists; expansion of telemedicine visits; adoption of telehealth strategies for patient education and clinical support; and adoption and dissemination of AHRQ's SHARE Approach to improve readiness for and comfort with shared decision-making between parents and providers.

COORDINATION: Led by Michigan's Children's Special Health Care Services Program (Title V), the key project partners include targeted primary care providers and specialists serving CYE from across the state, including rural and underserved area; community resources oriented to youth and family engagement, including the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan and the Family Center for CYSHCN; and supporting organizations such as the Michigan Primary Care Association, Michigan Public Health Institute, Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the University of Michigan Child Health Evaluation and Research Center (CHEAR).

EVALUATION: The project evaluation will utilize three components to ensure continuous quality improvement across participating clinical sites: project management, quality improvement data, and evaluation results. These components will serve to document relevant clinic structures, assess provider knowledge/attitudes/practices and CYE/parent experiences, and monitor progress toward project goals. The information gathered will be used to guide project activities, alert project leadership of challenges that may require intervention, and identify opportunities to disseminate key findings.