

## Medical Home Conference Call November 23, 2004

Discussion of interactions with schools and clinicians.

Guest Speaker: Elaine Pollock education specialist with Primary Children's Medical Center

The focus is on children who are chronically ill and those who also have new onset of a diagnosis or injury; these seem to be the ones that the schools and the parents are having the most difficulty with and this results in the kids not doing well at school. Hopefully, we can bridge these gaps and put some programs in place medically with the kids, then the school system will join in and the kids will do better as a whole. The key is to do it early, be brief and make whatever we do very functional. There are many ways to communicate between the practices and the schools; email and telephone. If a practice deals with one or two districts, you should find someone in the system to call directly who can problem solve it from their side. School nurses can be an excellent source. There is a program called Child Find that looks at children ages 3-5 who are not ready to go to kindergarten. These children may need more assistance of some kind. All the districts have programs for these age groups. The whole thing with the children who are chronically ill is a process, it takes so much on the parent and extended information to get it up and running. The information usually goes into a file in the front office but not into the hands of those who need it. The parent can help get this information to those who need it, for instance, if they would put in a half sheet of paper of what needs the child has, child's medications and the parents phone numbers so everyone can see that information. It is also important to have these discussions with adolescents. Kids have worries about schools, particularly adolescents, they worry about not being normal and they don't want parents to share the information, they just want the information to be kept secret. Talking about how they feel about their disease, how they feel about missing school and what they could do and what they could say to teachers and peers.

IEP and 504 also are a good source of information. Any child with a health care need should have a Health Care Plan one for example, allergies and asthma. Health Care Plan should be available with school nurse or classroom teacher. Health Care Plans can help identify how to handle the child. For instance, if they have a peanut allergy and there is a class party this information needs to be noted.

To help other children understand the needs of a child, you may want to ask a child how much they want to share with peers or join in a presentation. Have parents go into the classroom and talk with the kids and let them ask questions. Assigning different jobs to different children to help the child with a health care

need. Get a group of peers together and talk informally with them so they become the advocate. Puppet shows are done by The Assistance League of Salt Lake. Carolyn Green is a great resource at the Utah Department of Health. Many children receive free meals at school. Being creative about scheduling can help with taking medications. Partial days may be an option. Some children are home bound.

Resources – ED/MED, Utah Parents Center, PCMC parent hour for school issues are every Tuesday from 1:00-2:00 pm.

Next Conference Call: January 2005. Practices take on the conference calls.

Attendees: Lisa Samson-Fang, Barbara Ward, Elaine Pollock, Kathy Coopersmith, Lisa Lee, Chuck Norlin, Jeff Schmidt, Darlene Pead, Maria Wiscombe,