



CARE4KIDS

Care4Kids. Care4Kids is a Medicaid program that was developed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, and is administered in partnership by the program's certified health system provider, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and Children's Community Health Plan. Care4Kids provides comprehensive coordinated health services for children in Out of Home Care (i.e. foster care). The program recognizes the unique needs of children in foster care and coordinates care for the child in a way that builds relationships between health care providers and the child's caregivers to ensure the care is consistent, managed and organized through a comprehensive health care plan. The Care4Kids program was launched in 2014 in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Waukesha counties. This program operates under a "medical home" philosophy by establishing a primary care medical home team for each child designed to address each child's specific health care needs.

The program goals include:

- An integrated and comprehensive health service delivery system to include physical, behavioral and oral health care.
- Timely access to a full range of developmentally appropriate services.
- Quality care provided by a healthcare team that utilizes trauma-informed principles and evidence-based practices.
- In collaboration with child welfare partners, coordinated transitional planning to assure continuity of care as children achieve permanency or age out of foster care.
- Improved child well-being including physical, behavioral and mental health outcomes, increased positive permanency outcomes and enhanced resiliency.

Care4Kids is an innovative and unique program to Wisconsin, with an average monthly enrollment of approximately 3,200 foster care children from six southeastern Wisconsin counties. This complex, high-cost population now receives

Initial program successes

- Collaborative initiative involving multiple public and private partners serving a complex population
- Promising initial success and ongoing progress with outcome measures
- Establishment of primary care medical home providers as "Centers of Excellence"
- Development of innovative processes for enrollees with acute conditions (e.g. Polypharmacy Interdisciplinary Case Review & Initial Risk Triage Stratification upon enrollment)
- Lower overall medical costs compared to planned budget
- Development of a Comprehensive Health Care Plan to share amongst the child's stakeholders to enhance collaboration

comprehensive health care coordination services via the Care4kids program and its partners using a primary care medical home model.

The Care4Kids program is currently establishing baseline outcomes utilizing 15 key outcome measures. Since inception in 2014, the majority of the outcomes have shown improvement in both timeliness to care and overall completion rates with certain measures showing significant improvement.

While the Care4Kids partnership between DHS, DCF and Children's Hospital and Health System has experienced several initial successes and continues to make progress toward achieving its goals, there are continued challenges including:

- Requires a labor-intensive routine reporting process based upon complexity of the population, reporting timelines and variety of reporting sources (i.e. claims, medical records, etc.)
- Effective communication and care coordination engagement strategies across a diverse group of stakeholders, Out of Home Caregivers, biological parents/guardians, child welfare and providers
- Overcoming barriers to package and share information among broader care team members (e.g., HIPPA, legal implications)
- Identifying the effective strategies to address social determinants that present barriers to improved health for the child and the child's caregiver and/or family
- Timely parental/guardian consent for mental health assessment and treatment
- While improvements in dental outcomes have been made overall, access to dental providers for Medicaid population in Wisconsin remains a challenge
- Timely access to outpatient psychiatry care