

The National Academies of
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Collaborative on Vital Signs for the Health and Well-Being of Children and Families¹

Subject

The Forum for Children's Well-Being: Promoting Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Health for Children & Youth (Forum) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine established the Collaborative on Vital Signs for the Health and Well-Being of Children and Families (VSC). This activity builds on the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Vital Signs initiative (VS) and provides child and family expertise for developing metrics.

Background

Under the auspices of the then-IOM, Vital Signs measures were released in May 2015 to address the crushing burden of hundreds of quality measures, the lack of relatedness to community or population health or prevention, and the excessive attention to easily employed claims data in existing measures. A final set of four domains with 15 core measures were produced along with a recommendation that child health and development experts assess each of the measures for their relevance to child and family health and well-being.

Child healthcare experts, agencies and organizations had already been active in both developing and testing many measures of their own related to children and families. These included the Children's Hospital Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, American Public Health Association, National Committee for Quality Assurance, National Quality Forum, and National Governors' Association among others. The totality of these efforts resulted predominantly with a focus on guild or sector-based measures using existing data sets or detailed surveys and did not include accountability for community or population health.

In February of 2016 and again in January of 2017, two dozen individuals representing many of these organizations held preliminary meetings to discuss options for providing ongoing child expertise to the Vital Signs initiative and developing cross-cutting metrics for children and families that were aspirational and included a strong focus on community health and well-being. In 2018, members of the Forum established a collaborative that brings together national experts, providing a setting for convening scientists and stakeholders, to facilitate a linkage to the NAM VS initiative work already underway for adults.

Participants of this collaborative aim to further child and family relevant input to the VS content areas, test select metrics in large pediatric health systems, and socialize new concepts and measures by garnering input and feedback from parents, patients, payers, clinicians and other stakeholder groups.

Assessment

Child relevant input on an extremely parsimonious set of measures for large health systems, states and communities concerned about the health and well-being of children and families is necessary for the promotion of cognitive, affective and behavioral health of US children. The Forum is uniquely situated to effectively convene and solicit input from those working on the NAM VS initiative and others with relevant

¹ *This Collaborative is associated with the Forum for Children's Well-Being: Promoting Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Health for Children & Youth at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies). This activity does not necessarily represent the views of any one organization, the Forum, or the National Academies, and has not been subjected to the review procedures of, nor is it a report or product of, the National Academies

expertise and scientific knowledge around prevention and health promotion, and then further connect with previously disparate groups of providers, payers, patients and other stakeholders.

VSC aims to achieve the following over the next year:

1. Participate in conversations on developing a streamlined set of measures for child-serving systems resulting in a Vital Signs framework for measuring the health and well-being of children and families.
2. Develop a plan for public communication and continuous feedback from stakeholders.
3. Establish a connection to the NAM VS activities for ongoing child-relevant input and coordination.
4. Form a process for testing measures in large systems and secure partnerships to lead the efforts in approximately (# TBD) sites beginning in Year 2.

Action Plan

VSC is composed of two subgroups: 1) Measures and Metrics; and 2) Strategy, Communications, and Partnerships (working titles). Each subgroup is led by two co-chairs and will collaboratively develop their own work plans. Co-chairs will convene monthly to ensure their efforts align. Members of each subgroup May include 1) a self-selection of Forum members and 2) representatives from sponsoring organizations.

Group 1: Measures & Metrics

Jen Kaminski, CDC, and Kimberly Hoagwood, New York University (co-chairs)

This subgroup aims to identify and streamline existing measures that align with the VS framework. This group will engage in ongoing discussions about measures for child and community health and well-being, hold informational calls with content experts, and develop a vital signs framework for children and families.

Group 2: Strategy, Communications, & Partnerships

Kelly Kelleher, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and Anne Edwards, American Academy of Pediatrics (co-chairs)

This subgroup aims to identify and establish partnerships with individuals and organizations currently doing work related to child and community health measures, as well as connect with communities and large health systems that have an interest in testing the measures. This group will also establish a communication exchange with NAM regarding its ongoing VS efforts. The overarching goal of this subgroup is to ensure that the VSC Collaborative is creating strategic partnerships and laying the groundwork for sustainability and utilization.

Key Dates

VSC Collaborative members will participate in scheduled calls over the next 12 months. As this activity progresses, a timeline and benchmarks will be developed to reflect the direction and needs (including time and resources) of the subgroups.

Timing	Action Item
April/May 2018	Subgroup 1: Measures & Metrics -- Informational Calls with Content Experts
June 25, 2018	Official Collaborative Launch --- this introductory webinar will include members of both Subgroup 1 (Measures & Metrics) and Subgroup 2 (Strategy, Communications, & Partnerships)
Monthly	Monthly Co-Chair Calls (for planning and coordination)
Monthly	Monthly Subgroup Calls (timelines to be established by subgroups)