PROJECT OVERVIEW

ATTACHMENT B

PROJECT NAME
An Integrated Database System for Early Intervention: Implementation and Evaluation

HWPP PROJECT NUMBER 20071-10

PROJECT SUMMARY
Describe the major purpose of the project, the need and how it relates to the Health Improvement Model. Briefly describe the project's implementation plan, methods to be utilized and involvement of affected communities. Detail the community-academic partnership plan. Specify the evaluation method that will be used to measure feasible, quantifiable and significant outcomes and the impact the project will have on the health of Wisconsin residents. Do not exceed this one page

This project addresses a need identified by early intervention programs in Milwaukee County for an early childhood integrated database system (ECIDS) that will improve collection, storage, and sharing of information about young children with disabilities. ECIDS addresses the Health Improvement Model by (1) providing data driven coordination of services for young children with disabilities to facilitate their access to primary and preventative services, promote their improved identification, care coordination and case management; (2) focusing on a specific population, young children with disabilities in Milwaukee County; (3) enhancing the efficiency of child data management for early intervention through (a) identification of disability trends, (b) evaluation of the costs and benefits of programs, and (c) improvement of program planning and service delivery; and finally, by (4) increasing provider efficiency by reinforcing and supplementing services without increasing workload.

ECIDS will be a long term asset supporting provision of health care to young children with disabilities in Milwaukee County and beyond. In a 2004-05 HWPP planning project, the perceived needs of early intervention providers were identified and used to develop a prototype of ECIDS. The proposed project will implement and evaluate ECIDS, which includes a central database, online referral tool, case management tool, Individual Family Service Plan tool, and outcome measurement and reporting tools for early intervention programs in Milwaukee County and the state of Wisconsin. Service providers and client families from selected early intervention programs will participate in ECIDS implementation and provide feedback for evaluation, which will focus on data collection and data reporting. We will also work closely with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to ensure system compatibility and security.

The success of the project is dependent upon clear role definitions and active involvement of the project partners. The MCW partner will provide input on ECIDS user interface, HIPAA compliance, evaluation of the value of ECIDS for tracking incidence trends for disabilities, and establishing a Community Advisory Board that will assure community input into ECIDS implementation and evaluation. The Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will provide requirements for data input and reporting and will assist in the management of the evaluation of ECIDS. The Milwaukee Health Department will help document and establish links with related data repositories and their managing organizations. The Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI) will assist in the implementation and evaluation of ECIDS (years two and three of the proposed project). All of the partners also will be involved in evaluating the overall success of the project.

Qualitative and quantitative methods will be used to measure the project outcomes. In-person interviews and an online survey will be used to evaluate acceptance by early intervention service providers and client families, focusing on the ease and efficiency of use, effects on provider workload, and the capacity of ECIDS to improve the usefulness of the information for providers and client families. The evaluation will also assess “before-after” number of child cases served and the length of time required to retrieve child information from ECIDS. An external Project Evaluator with expertise in the evaluation of information systems in health care will assist in the development of the evaluations and the collection and interpretation of the evaluation data.

The proposed impact award project will improve the delivery of early intervention services for young children with disabilities in Milwaukee County by (1) allowing for accurate/reliable determination of prevalence and rate trends for children with DD; (2) fostering efficient, integrated service delivery for these children; (3) facilitating the tracking of successes, costs, and benefits of these services; and (4) supporting evaluation and improvement of services.