

# Improving Lost to Follow-up Rates: Meeting Families Where They Are At

Lori S. Wiorek, Au.D., CCC-A Masters Family Speech & Hearing Ctr. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin



© Children's Hospital and Health System. All rights reserved.



# Children's Hospital of Wisconsin



- Founded in 1894
- Located in Milwaukee
- One of the top pediatric facilities in the nation
- It is the largest pediatric facility in the state of Wisconsin
- It serves children from Wisconsin, Michigan, northern Illinois and beyond



# Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

- Main Campus Hospital
  - 296 beds
  - NICU 43 beds
  - NPCU 16 beds
- CHW Fox Valley
  - 42 beds
  - NICU 22 beds
- Masters Family Speech & Hearing Ctr.
  - 12 Audiologists
  - 10,000-11,000 patients/year
  - 500+ In-patient UNHS



# Reducing LTFU Rate

#### Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program & Children's Hospital of Wisconsin



© Children's Hospital and Health System. All rights reserved.



#### Focus Areas

- Inpatient UNHS Protocol
- Expanding services outside of the hospital
  - Suburban location
  - Urban location





## Inpatient UNHS Protocol



- Complete AABR screening on babies close to discharge.
- Pass Recommend hearing evaluation at 6-12 months
- Refer Re-screen within 2-4 weeks of discharge





### Problems

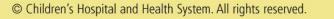


- 60% of our babies live more than 1 hour from Children's Hospital
- High percentage of Medicaid patients
- Many have other significant medical conditions
- LTFU rate was higher than desired
- Re-screens were happening later than desired



## LTFU Rate & Age

- Initial IP refers 25%
- Re-screen refers 10%
- Average Age at final diagnosis 142.5 days





# NICU Protocol Changes 2010

- Screen with AABR close to discharge
- If baby refers, re-screen within 48 hours with diagnostic equipment.
- If baby refers again, obtain ENT consult
- If ears are healthy or ENT decides baby needs PE tubes, then a diagnostic AEP is completed.
- If fluid is present, baby is scheduled for ENT/Audiology 1 month post discharge.



#### Improvements



- Refers 53
- Passed IP Re-screen 43%
- Diagnosed HL as IP 9%
- LTFU 2%
- Ave. age at final diagnosis 71.5 days (71 days earlier)



# SUCCESS!!





# Expand services outside of the main hospital

- Suburban Location
- Urban Location



### Suburban New Berlin Clinic



- Multi-specialty outpatient clinic
- 1.5 audiologists
- 7 appointments/month
- Completed 44 screenings/diagnostic tests in 2010



# SUCCESS!!





### Urban 16<sup>th</sup> Street Community Health Ctr.

- Located in inner-city Milwaukee
- Serves mainly Hispanic population
- Low socio-economic population





### Roadblocks

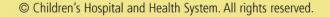
- Not a Children's Hospital of WI clinic
- Communication issues concerning what the commitment of both clinics were to be
- We are looking into providing services during Urgent Care hours (evenings & weekends)





# **Other Options**

### Look at offering services in locations that CHW already has services, but not audiology





### Locations

- Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie
  - Located approx. 1 hour south of Milwaukee
  - Close to Illinois border
- Fox Valley area
  - Located approx. 2 hours north of Milwaukee





### Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie

- More of an urban setting
  - Lower socio-economic status
  - Higher Medicaid population
- 2 Hospitals
  - Aurora Medical Center
  - United Hospital





# Goals



- Provide services where there is a lack of services
- Capture border babies
- Partner with community resources
- Provide education
- Continue to grow and add services
- Will start with 1-2 days/month



# Fox Valley

- Children's Hospital is currently in the area by being located in Theda Clark Medical Center
- Currently there is no close proximity for F/U services





### Goals

- Capture babies that are being LTFU
- Partner with the local medical facilities
- Provide education
- Increase services
- Will start with 1-2 days/month



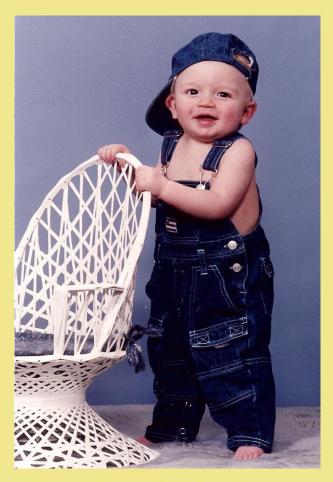


# Summary

- Reduced our LTFU
- Reduced the age of final diagnosis
- Reduced our TTNA
- Reduced the number of babies on our We-Trac queue
- Hope to continue to improve once the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie and Fox Valley settings are up and running



# Thank you!!





© Children's Hospital and Health System. All rights reserved.