Enhancing the System of Services (SOS) for Oregon’s Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

What is SOS?
SOS is shorthand for “Enhancing the System of Services for Oregon’s Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN).” SOS is an initiative of the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (OCCYSHN).

SOS aims to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, integrated and sustainable system of care for Oregon’s CYSHCN. The focus is on coherent, statewide systems and policies. SOS is funded by one of 16 state implementation grants awarded in 2014 by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

What is OCCYSHN?
OCCYSHN is a public health program serving Oregon’s children and youth with special health needs.

OCCYSHN fosters the optimal health and function of Oregon CYSHCN by supporting Oregon families and communities, and by informing policy-makers. OCCYSHN’s work is guided by MCHB, Oregon’s Title V Block Grant program, and statewide Health Care Transformation efforts.

OCCYSHN’s current priorities are to build and support a system of care ensuring that CYSHCN receive care within a medical home, make an effective transition from pediatric to adult health care, and receive culturally and linguistically appropriate care. These priorities are based on established standards for systems of care for children and youth with special health needs.¹

Nearly one in five Oregon children under age 18 has a special health care need.
Source: National Survey of Children’s Health, NSCH 2011/2012

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How does SOS work?

The SOS initiative focuses on three strategies, each of which has a specific goal for improving the system of care for CYSHCN. A cross-systems CYSHCN Advisory Group informs and collaborates on ways to achieve these goals. The three strategies and their goals are as follows:

**Cross-systems care coordination. Goal:** Starting from a baseline of 0, by October 2017, 20% of Oregon’s targeted CYSHCN will have a shared plan of care (a written, evolving document where needs, goals, roles and plans are recorded and shared with families of CYSHCN and their various providers of care and services).

**Integration of information between education, mental and physical health. Goal:** By October 2017, an agency-level written agreement will be developed between two or more state or regional-level entities to improve the timely receipt of information following the initial referral of a CYSHCN by a medical home.

**Creation of a statewide shared resource.** The shared resource (which is web and phone-based) offers information and resources to families of CYSHCN, young adults with special health needs, and providers who serve CYSHCN and their families. **Goal:** By October 2017, 50% of families and medical home providers of CYSHCN contacting a shared resource (SR) for a needed specialist, support or service, will obtain that specialist, support, or service.

The CYSHCN Advisory Group directing the work of SOS is comprised of representatives from:

- Families of CYSHCN
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education
- Multnomah County Department of Health
- Oregon Child Development Coalition
- Oregon Health Authority Maternal and Child Health Section
- Oregon Health Authority’s Patient-Centered Primary Care Home program
- Oregon Health Authority’s Health Policy and Analytics Division
- Oregon Medicaid Health Systems Division
- Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership
- Oregon Pediatric Society

When the SOS grant funding concludes in late 2017, OCCYSHN will continue to convene the SOS CYSHCN Advisory Group. The Advisory Group’s efforts will be integrated into OCCYSHN’s ongoing work on behalf of CYSHCN. The group will retain its systems and policy focus, and will form a cohesive voice for advising state-level leadership on behalf of Oregon’s CYSHCN and their families.

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