Healthy Food for All Families: The Role of Primary Care in Food Security

Despite improvements over the past few years, the latest statistics show that 1 in 5 children in Wisconsin struggles with hunger, and the health effects are both immediate and long term. During the WIAAP’s fall Open Forum, partners from across the state explored ways for making a joint commitment to make sure no child goes hungry.

There is good news for our kids. WIAAP and Feeding Wisconsin have partnered to promote the use of a simple, two question screening tool recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in its November 2015 policy statement, “Promoting Food Security for All Children.” An example of this form is enclosed for use in your practice. The tool is endorsed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

When a physician identifies a family in need, it’s a perfect opportunity to point them to available resources, including 2-1-1 FoodShare and Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Clinics in Wisconsin have begun implementing use of the screener tool to improve the quality of their patient care and are willing to work with other clinicians to do the same. If you are interested in more information, please contact us.

Speaker presentations and other conference materials, please visit the “Events” section of our website at wiaap.org.

Second Annual WIAAP Food Drive • September 29 – October 6, 2016

In conjunction with the Forum, WIAAP launched its second annual Food Drive during the week of September 29 – October 6, 2016. We challenged members to collect donated food items in their clinics to give to food pantries in their communities. Photos of participating clinics can be found at the Open Forum event site.

To find food banks in your area, dial 2-1-1.
Welcome to our inaugural WIAAP News Brief. Through quarterly updates, we will provide information complementing our e-News, website, calendar, blog, Facebook page and Twitter feed. We encourage contributions to any of our communications. Contact us at wiaap@badgerbay.co.

A Message from Jeffrey Britton, MD, FAAP, WIAAP President

Your Wisconsin Chapter dedicates its time and resources to support you in your practice as well as the children and families you serve. Each summer, our leaders convene to set the course for the upcoming year through identifying its strategic objectives, often mirroring the national AAP’s. I am delighted to share just a few accomplishments over the past year:

Advocacy
- Lobbying and educating legislators on child health-related proposals
- Doctor Day including the pediatric advocacy track
- Convention of Pediatric Policy Group
- Promotion of AAP’s #VoteKids campaign

Early Childhood
- Publication of the “Comprehensive and Aligned System for Screening and Assessment in Early Childhood: Wisconsin’s Blueprint” – endorsed by three state departments
- Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council recommendations for promoting early childhood

Educational and networking opportunities
- Two successful HPV Vaccine Summits
- Open Forums on QI and Food Security
- 2017 Mental Health in Primary Care symposium planning, including MOC II credit

Mental Health
- Office of Children’s Mental Health Trauma Informed subcommittee
- Expansion of Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP)
- Pilots promoting infant/early childhood mental health consultation

Quality Improvement
- First WIAAP MOC IV pilot centering on HPV vaccine rate increase
- Open Forum on QI in Pediatrics, featuring David Nichol, MD, MBA, FAAP, President of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP)
- Advisory capacity on two statewide QI grant initiatives
  - Healthy Smiles for Moms and Babies for oral health
  - Wisconsin Perinatal Quality Collaborative

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#VoteKids

This November, our nation will elect a new president, who will have the opportunity to shape and enact policies that will influence children’s lives now and for years to come. The stakes could not be higher. There are many threats to children’s health right now, from Zika to poverty to gun violence to natural disasters, but there are also many opportunities to ensure that children have what they need to thrive.

Visit aap.org/votekids to find these and other resources:

- Video archive of the panel discussion held in Washington DC on “Speaking up for Children”
- Blueprint for Children: How the Next President Can Build a Foundation for a Healthy Future
- Communications messaging for social and traditional media
- “AAP Charlie” and “Rx to Vote” printables

Nominations and Awards

Nominations – WIAAP Secretary/Treasurer and Board of Directors 2017-2020

For this year’s chapter ballot, there will be three open positions on our board of directors.

The Secretary/Treasurer, after serving the first three-year term, ascends to vice president, president and immediate past president with no further election.

There are two (2) open board of directors at large seats up for election. Winning candidates will serve a three-year term, beginning in July 2017 and running through June 2020. Board members may opt to serve a second three-year term without election.

Interested chapter members in good standing should submit a current CV, photo and 250-word statement on why they are interested in serving on the board and their vision for WIAAP, no later than Friday, January 6, 2017. Email wiaap@badgerbay.co.

Call for Nominations – AAP Achievement Awards

At the end of each calendar year and as part of WIAAP’s annual report, we are allowed to nominate deserving members for recognition by the AAP in a particular endeavor or accomplishment. If you would like to submit a recommendation of 250 words or less, please email us at wiaap@badgerbay.co no later than Friday, December 2, 2016.

Congratulations to this year’s AAP Achievement Awards:

Paula Cody, MD, FAAP
CME events on reproductive health care and being Early Career representative

Cliff Hartmann, DDS, FAAD, FAAP
Advocacy for oral health access and education for primary care providers

Steven Manson, MD, FAAP
Expanding access to health care for vulnerable populations through community service
WIAAP reaches out to members and partners by email, on our web site and on social media. Our editorial board welcomes outside submissions for consideration.

We encourage you to contribute your expertise, editorials and news items by serving as a guest blogger on our web site. Contact us at wiaap@badgerbay.co with your ideas.
HungerCare Food & Nutrition Screening Algorithm

What providers need to be aware of:

The USDA defines food security as having “access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.” Families may be considered food insecure if they:

- experience anxiety about having enough food in the house
- have to purchase lower quality, lower variety, or less desirable food
- have to eat less or less often

Research shows that hunger significantly affects a child’s physical health, emotional well-being, development, and school performance.

What clinic/hospital staff can do:

Ask 2 questions to screen for food insecurity:
For each statement, please tell me whether the statement was “often true, sometimes true, or never true” for your household:

1) “Within the past 12 months we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”
2) “Within the past 12 months the food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.”

If a patient says “often true” or “sometimes true” to either question, provide a list of local food resources and refer the patient to a social worker who can assist them in applying for all eligible programs.

(See back for resource list)

Test, treat, and refer for health consequences as appropriate. Keep food insecurity status in mind when making diagnoses and care plans.

Check back about food access and program enrollment with follow up call from social worker.
How to Support a Patient Without Access to Adequate Nutritious Food

1. **Screen all patients—never assume a patient has adequate food resources.** Many families may not appear to be struggling financially but are just a job loss or unexpected expense away from being food insecure. Universal screening using the two USDA-validated questions is the best way to ensure that all food insecure patients are identified and assisted.

2. **Sensitivity is key.** Patients may be afraid to share their food insecurity concerns if they feel that they will be judged or could be reported to Child Protective Services. The questions should be asked in a sensitive and supportive manner.

3. **Consider food insecurity status when making diagnoses and creating care plans.** Could lack of access to nutritious food be the cause of or exacerbating a patient’s symptoms? Could financial stress cause the patient to fail to take their prescribed medications?

4. **Follow-up is important.** Social workers and nurses can provide encouragement and follow-up to ensure that patients receive the assistance that they need.

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### Food Resources

**2-1-1** — Call 2-1-1 or go to http://www.211wisconsin.org/

2-1-1 is an easy to remember three-digit phone number that connects people with free and confidential information and referral services. 2-1-1 provides callers with access to resources such as food pantries and meal sites, bill payment assistance, housing search assistance, support groups, and community clinics. 2-1-1 is free, available every hour of every day, can assist in 140 languages, and is accessible in every community in Wisconsin.

**FoodShare Helpline** — Call 1-877-366-3635 or go to www.GetAQuestCard.org

FoodShare Wisconsin (otherwise known as SNAP) is a nutrition assistance program that provides money for groceries on a Quest (EBT) card. Feeding Wisconsin’s FoodShare Helpline screens for potential eligibility and offers appointments for free, personalized application assistance.

**WIC (Women, Infants and Children)** — Call the Maternal and Child Health Hotline at 1-800-722-2295 or go to https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/wic-offices.htm to find the county WIC office in your area

WIC is a supplemental nutrition and health program for pregnant and post-partum women, infants, and children less than 5 years of age. WIC helps families buy specific foods for good health, supports breastfeeding, and provides information on nutrition, feeding, and offers community resources. There is no citizenship requirement for WIC.

**Online Resources** — Go to www.whatscooking.fns.usda.gov/ or www.leannebrown.com to find easy recipes for healthy and affordable meals. Go to http://tinyurl.com/healthyonabudget to get tips on how you can afford to eat healthy on a budget.

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For more information visit www.hungercare.org