
SDOH Care Improvement Learning Collaborative March-May 2023

The School-Based Health Alliance is excited to announce a new learning collaborative on improving social determinants of health (SDOH) care for children and adolescents. The goal of the initiative is to aid health centers in improving and expanding existing SDOH screening for children and adolescents. Participants will learn: best practices for SDOH care workflows for children & adolescents, how to develop and maximize school and community partnerships, and sustainable business practices for SDOH screening and care.

The Improving SDOH Care learning collaborative is free for participants. Participants **MUST** commit to incorporating knowledge and skills from the training into their work. Participants who successfully finish the program will receive a Certificate of Completion as well as continuing education (CE) credits as applicable. Continuing education credits will be available for this activity for physicians, nurses, and behavioral health professionals.

WHY FOCUS ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS?

The inequitable distribution of health resources across our communities creates profound and unjust disparities in outcomes for young people, fueled by poverty, discrimination, racism, and economic segregation. These structural inequities contribute to chronic absenteeism, school failure, substance use, depression, asthma, obesity, and other challenges.¹ Children and adolescents disconnected from systemic resources are less healthy and less likely to succeed in school and society than their peers who have social advantages. The presence or absence of high-quality education in safe and supportive school climates, readily accessible health care services, access to nutritious foods and safe drinking water, routine opportunities for recreation and physical education, and trusting adults in their lives can elevate or disrupt a young person's chance to thrive into adulthood.²

SDOH screening is an effective practice to address these environmental factors for children and adolescents. Providers are hesitant to screen when they feel they do not have adequate knowledge about SDOH screening practices and uncertainty about the availability of referral services to address patient needs.³ When a health center develops referral relationships to address patient needs, and there are clear screening guidelines, screening increases.^{4, 5} Providing health centers and providers tools to build referral partnerships and enhance their SDOH screening practices to address young people's unique concerns and circumstances is a crucial step in addressing the health inequities that span beyond the clinic walls.

ELIGIBILITY

The School-Based Health Alliance welcomes applications from school-based and community-based health centers (Health Center Programs and look-alikes) **that provide SDOH screening and services to children and adolescents**. Multiple sites from a health center may apply, but each site must complete a separate application.

Each application **must include** one health center administrator or operations staff member (such as finance or other administration position) and one clinical provider. Additional staff members can be included in the application, such as a community health worker, health educator, IT, or quality improvement.

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Participants of this learning collaborative must:

- Participate in one 60-minute welcome session on March 27, 2023;
- Participate in four two-hour sessions, over a two-month time period, by engaging in learning collaborative activities and discussions;
- Participate in coaching calls between sessions throughout the course of the learning collaborative;
- Share learned information with fellow employees;
- Create an action plan to improve SDOH screening and care for children and adolescents in their health center; and
- Complete periodic surveys to help improve learning collaborative activities for clinicians and other partners.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE OUTLINE

Each two-hour session, held 1:00-3:00pm EST, will include 90 minutes of presentation and discussion and 30 minutes of breakout rooms for working on action plans. The SDOH learning collaborative curriculum includes the following topics:

- Welcome (March 27)
- Introduction and SDOH Improvement Self-Assessment (April 3)
- SDOH Referral and Care Coordination Partnerships (April 17)
- Value and Sustainability of SDOH Practices (May 1)
- SDOH Workflow & Final Action Plans (May 15)

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Participants will need a quiet place set aside for each two-hour learning collaborative session. All sessions will operate through Zoom (see the [Zoom Help Center](#) for detailed system requirement) and participants are expected to have their cameras enabled during the learning collaborative.

HOW TO APPLY

Click through to complete the application and initial assessment online [Here](#). The application requires signatures from learning collaborative applicants and their supervisors. After completing the first page, click the 'Save and Continue Later' link in the upper right-hand corner and fill-in your name and email address. A unique link will be emailed to you and you may share this application link with others to obtain their signatures.

For any questions, contact Shameka Davis, Program Manager for the School-Based Health Alliance, at sdavis@sbh4all.org.

APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

- **March 17, 2023:** Application deadline
- Applicants notified of outcome on a rolling basis

REFERENCES

1. Felitti VJ, Anda RF, Nordenberg D, et al. Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. *Am J Prev Med.* 2019;56(6):774-786.
2. National Academies of Sciences E, and Medicine,. *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity.* National Academic Press. 2017.
3. Watson P. How to screen for ACEs in an efficient, sensitive, and effective manner. *Paediatr Child Health.* 2019;24(1):37-38. doi:10.1093/pch/pxy146
4. Garg A, Cull W, Olson L, Fisher Boyd A, Federico S, Dreyer B, Racine A. Screening and Referral for Low-Income Families' Social Determinants of Health by US Pediatricians. *Academic Pediatrics,* 2019, 19(8), 875-883. O'Gurek D, Henke C. A Practical Approach to Screening for Social Determinants of Health. *Family Practice Management.* 2018.