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Neuro-inclusive care demonstration through vaccination clinic

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Neuro-inclusive care demonstration through vaccination clinic

All Brains Belong

Elizabeth Barker

December 2021 & January 2022

Dr. Melissa Houser

Problem Identification and description of need

The problem was first identified by Dr. Houser when she heard about patients unable to get a covid vaccination at the given clinics

Patients get overwhelmed. People don't know what accommodations people need

What does neuro inclusive care look like?

An experience where they are able to receive a vax with their needs considered

Public health cost

Covid-19 numbers have continued to rise in late 2021 and early 2022 in Vermont and across the nation

Most recent data from AAP

- 9,452,491 total child COVID-19 cases reported
- children represented 17.8% of all cases
- Overall rate: 12,559 cases per 100,000 children in the population
- 981,488 child COVID-19 cases were reported the past week from January 6th '22 to Jan 13th '22
- Over two weeks, at the most recent peak, there was a 20% increase in the cumulative number of child COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic
- Among states reporting, children ranged from 1.7%-4.4% of their total cumulative hospitalizations, and 0.1%-1.5% of all their child COVID-19 cases resulted in hospitalization

Community Perspective on Issue and Support for Project

- Dr. Melissa Houser

- "There are so many 'defaults' in our society, including within the healthcare system, Any time there is a default expectation, anyone who doesn't fit into that mold feels 'othered, When we cause people to feel 'othered,' we don't have true inclusion and there are so many who feel excluded from current healthcare system."

- Hannah Bloom, Pediatric Occupational therapist

- "In the traditional healthcare system, there are times when medical events are delivered without intentional acknowledgement for a child's bodily autonomy. What Dr. Houser created with this vaccine clinic was the ability for family systems and individual nervous systems to be the directors of their own health experience."

Intervention and Methodology

Intervention was a news story with LCOM

Spread awareness of what sensory informed care looks like and provided opportunities for vaccination

Worked with UVM LCOM editorial team, Michelle Bookless

Local news was tagged on social media

Results and Response

Lots of positive responses to the article

- Responses on Instagram
- 122 likes
- Comment “this is tremendous!!!”

Vaccination Clinic

- More online registrations
- New registrants

A lot a great verbal feedback in person at the clinic

Evaluation of effectiveness and limitations

The article only had an online presence

Was not picked up by other news sources

Some people still had the misconception that it was for neuro divergent only

Recommendations for future projects

More direct information for family medicine clinics and accommodations for health care

Cost of sensory items can add up, our's were donated from *Vermont Family Network*

What does this look like in a hospital setting?

What education do medical staff still need?

References

- American Academy of Pediatrics. (2022, January 20). *Children and covid-19: State-level data report*. Home. Retrieved January 24, 2022, from <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>